

DN disabilitynow

the campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

£1.80 July 2003 • established 1984

Remploy slated

DN EXCLUSIVE BY NUALA CALVI

Union reps are to tell the Minister for Disabled People that Britain's largest supported employer is being "mismanaged". The news comes as a second offer by Remploy to settle its pay dispute is likely to be rejected, bringing the risk of strike action one step closer.

A consortium of union officials and senior disabled shop stewards was set to meet Maria Eagle MP as DN went to press, claiming the company has continued to decline while the number of paid directors has increased along with their pay.

Remploy lost £13.9m last year, £4m more than 2001. It would have been worse had it not been "selling the family silver" – £2.5m of assets in 2002.

The consortium says the cost of the Remploy directors doubled from 1996 to 2002, to £666,000.

In the same period, the chief executive's pay went up 42 per cent to £2,919 per week, compared with a rise of 23 per cent to £193.19 for skilled workers.

Phil Davies, secretary of the Remploy Consortium of Trade Unions, said: "The fat cats grow fatter under the nose of the government who fund Remploy to employ disabled people."

The consortium is concerned that Remploy's government funding has been frozen for eight years, despite spiralling costs.

The company received an extra £18m cash injection this year and the consortium has called for a consultation to ensure it is used to improve conditions for employees. It also claims Remploy has failed to meet an agreement two years ago to guarantee 6,000 factory jobs for disabled people.

It says 300 jobs have not materialised while more senior, mainly non-disabled, staff have

been taken on.

Disabled shop steward Phil Brannan said: "We have a ridiculous situation where people employed permanently are made redundant then brought back as consultants and paid more. It's managerial incompetence."

He said several board members received substantial payments into their pension schemes, while employees were asked to pay an extra one per cent into their pensions.

The consortium also plans to raise concerns that finance director Bob Warner and his former company BT are facing criminal charges and a claim for £1.8bn in Italy over the collapse of a mobile phone company.

Remploy said it had "no desire" to publicly discuss issues which the trades unions "can and should raise directly with the company".

And it expected Warner to be "completely exonerated".



Shadow leader: Theresa Hunt, 13, from Chelmsford, Essex, was one of 12 disabled teenagers who won the chance to meet the Prime Minister in a Disability Rights Commission competition, by describing what they would do if they were "PM for the day". Theresa said: "If I was Prime Minister for the day, I would make more jobs accessible to disabled people and involve more young disabled people in government."

The Prestige

Premier Quality without the Price Tag

- Moneyback Guarantee
- No Sales Reps

Four Section Profiling
Height Adjustable
Electrically Operated
Discreet Side Rails

BaKare

Customer Helpline 01752 512222

www.bakare.co.uk email: info@bakare.co.uk

Branded a 'criminal'

A disabled woman is seeking compensation from the government after the Benefits Agency labelled her a criminal, even though she has never been in trouble with the police.

Caroline Eynon, from Swansea, found out by accident that she was a "criminal" when she informed the benefits office that she was no longer entitled to Income Support in June 2001. She was told changes couldn't be made to her account because she was in prison.

Since then, Eynon, who has arthritis, has "lost count" of the number of times her request to amend the records has been ignored. She also had no response when she followed the

Benefit Agency's complaints procedure.

Things looked up in August 2002, when she received a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) saying a clerical error had been made, but her file was still not amended. In March 2003, Eynon was told again: "You are in prison".

Eynon wants the DWP to clear her file of any "criminal record", access to her file to make sure it is removed and compensation for stress. She has now contacted the Data Protection Office to request access to her files.

"I don't even know what I am supposed to have done. It's maddening and frustrating.

The last thing I need is stress; it aggravates my condition.

"It is absolutely scandalous that they can put information on file that is totally untrue. This information goes through to police records. It affects me if I try and get a job or want a loan. I just want this allegation removed from my file. I want compensation."

A spokeswoman for the DWP said: "We cannot comment on individual cases. The DWP is in contact with the customer and her solicitor to resolve the matter."

On hearing the DWP's statement, Eynon said: "That is the first bit of positive news I've heard in two and a half years."

On the cover: Helen Smith, a disabled journalist with Anglia TV, sets sail at last month's Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park. While there, she tried out one of the Trimaran boats designed for disabled sailors and brought to the roadshow by Challenger Class Association.

Read Helen's report and see Martin Jenkinson's pictures in our two-page roadshow special, featuring the latest in cars and equipment, on pages 20 and 21.

Contents

Pg 28



News

Stories	1-8
Health news	10
Regional news	12
Sport	13
News Focus	
– Jokes on television	14

Features

Comment	17
– Tanni in Florida	
Profile	18
– Frances Hasler, revolutionary	
Motoring	20-21
– The 2003 Mobility Roadshow	
Chelsea flower show	23-24
– This year's bloom	
Out & about	28-31
– Four pages of summer outings	
My job	35
– Eleanor Walsh, swim coach	

Regulars

Letters to the editor	16
Parent's voice	23
Checkout	24-25
Travel	32
Arts	36
Bright ideas	38
Share your problems	40
Take a break	42
Information	42-43
Travel club	43
Classified	43-50
Up for grabs	51

Pg 38



Quality vehicles for wheelchair users

Comfortable, safe, affordable.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles
from Constables make the journey
as pleasurable as the destination.

Up-front travel

CarChair
SYSTEM

range includes;
Focus / 307 / Mini / Megane / 807 / Voyager



Rear access vehicles

Openroad

range includes;
Kangoo / Expert / 807 / Transporter



Front door or rear door - We'll bring it to your door

Motability



Constables Ltd., Mountney Bridge Business Park
Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5NJ
T: 01323 76 75 74 F: 01323 767603
E: info@constablesmobility.com
Scottish Office, PO. Box 7489, Perth, Scotland, PH2 9YQ
T: 01738 850 777
www.constablesmobility.com



Constables
mobility

disabilitynow

Published by Scope
Editor Mary Wilkinson

editorial

News Editor John Pring
Reporters Nuala Calvi
and Lucy Glynn
Layout Sub Sam Gillespie/
David Felton
Editorial Assistant
Dan Batten
Design/Production Editor
Jamie Trounce

address

Disability Now, 6 Market Road
London N7 9PW
Editorial: 020 7619 7323
Fax: 020 7619 7331
Minicom: 020 7619 7332
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

advertising

Advertising Manager
Richard Gresham
Tel: 020 7619 7336
e-mail: richard.gresham@scope.org.uk
Sales Executive
Patrick Durham-Matthews
Tel: 020 7619 7320
e-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@
scope.org.uk
Sales Administrative
Assistant Suzan Hillman
Tel: 020 7619 7120
Fax: 020 7619 7331

marketing

Marketing Manager
Judith Reid
Marketing Executive
Elizabeth Cowley

subscriptions

Customer Interface, Bradley
Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS32 0PP
Tel: 0845 120 7001
e-mail: dnsubs@cisubs.co.uk

printing

Voluntary Sector Services,
Centurion Press Ltd,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,
Tel: 01923 891000

newstand distribution

If you have any problems
obtaining a copy of *DN* through
your newsagent or supermarket,
please call Nick Edwards at MMC
on 01483 211222 or email
nick.edwards@mmcltd.co.uk

alternative formats

Disability Now is also available
on cassette, disk or via e-mail
from Talking Newspapers
Enterprises Ltd. For orders or
queries, tel: 01435 862737.
ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now*
are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 2003 Scope

No material may be reproduced, amended or
published, in any format, without the prior
permission of the Editor.

While we strive to maintain the highest
standards in reproduction, *Disability Now* cannot
be held responsible for picture quality.



22,784
1/7/01 - 30/6/02



Equipment fund block

Money for community equipment is not getting through to disabled people despite government plans to improve services.

Experts say pooling of health and social services funding has led to cutting staff and forcing disabled people to pay for equipment themselves.

Sue Butterworth, chair of the Disabled Living Centres Council, said funding for the first three years of the plan was not ringfenced, resulting in difficulties identifying the money at a local level.

"It is being ringfenced for

2003, but it is still difficult to identify," she said

Local health and social services received £105m under the programme, with £7.6m ringfenced to fund 500,000 additional pieces of equipment for an extra 250,000 people by 2006.

Ray Hodgkinson, director of the British Healthcare Trades Association, said that money promised over the past few years was not getting through the system because chief executives of hospital trusts had "other priorities".

He confirmed the findings of

an Audit Commission report in June that found over half of the NHS trusts in England had diverted money from areas such as medical equipment to keep services running. He added that only £280,000 of the £4m promised for silicone cosmesis had been allocated.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said a ten-strong team was working to improve equipment services and spread good practice. The government had made clear the importance of equipment in reaching targets, she said.



Famous face: pop star Lisa Scott-Lee, who has a learning disabled uncle, is one of four new celebrity ambassadors for Mencap. She and other stars have painted self-portraits to be auctioned to raise money for the charity: www.mencap.org.uk/auction

Berwick awarded MBE in Queens honours

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Berwick, who is blind, has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, received an MBE for services to disabled people.

As well as being a trained counsellor, she founded the Lin Berwick Trust, which builds and manages holiday accommodation for severely disabled people.

She said: "I feel tremendously honoured to have received it. I am slightly embarrassed about it, as we

are all working hard. I am accepting it on behalf of the team."

Clare Evans, a disabled woman from Wiltshire, was also awarded an MBE for services to disabled people, after co-founding the Wiltshire and Swindon Users Network (WSUN) in 1991.

She said: "It's important to have the work of disabled people recognised."

And Ernest Guild, director of the British Wheelchair Athletics Association, received an MBE for services to disabled sports.



European busker: Clair Lewis, from Manchester, performed on the European Year of Disabled People campaign "bus" in Birmingham, as the city launched Disability History Week. The bus began a UK tour in June, including visits to Southampton, Hackney and Blackheath in London and the Epsom Derby.

In brief

DRC fears

The Disability Rights Commission is "growing increasingly concerned" the government may not introduce a disability bill in the next Queen's Speech, despite promises for a draft version to appear by the year's end.

Chair Bert Massie fears this could delay new anti-discrimination measures in areas such as transport.

Call to lobby MPs

The British Healthcare Trades Association has told its members to lobby their MPs if they are concerned about Route2Mobility (R2M), the new company running the Motability scheme for powered scooters and wheelchairs.

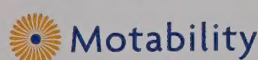
Retailers are concerned that changes brought in by R2M could cause problems, particularly for customers with more complex needs.

Stannah Powerchairs.

24-HOUR LOCAL SERVICE NATIONWIDE

Your first choice.

Like our world-famous stairlifts, every Stannah Powerchair is made to the highest standards and is backed by first-class service, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



CALL 0800 715 463 EXT. 6986
www.stannah.co.uk/active

Please send me a FREE brochure ☐ Please call to arrange my free, no obligation home demonstration ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Stannah Active, Dept 6986, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR

Stannah active

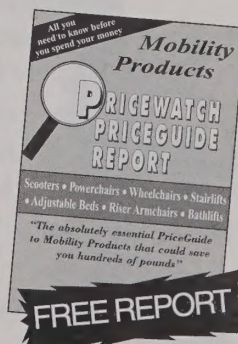
LOOK! AMAZING NEW PRICEGUIDE EXPOSES HUGE PRICE DIFFERENCES

ARE YOU ABOUT TO PAY FAR TOO MUCH FOR A SCOOTER, POWERCHAIR, STAIRLIFT, BATHLIFT, RISER ARMCHAIR, BED OR OTHER MOBILITY PRODUCT?

"No-one should even consider buying a mobility product until they have read this remarkably revealing report and have compared prices"

You could end up saving hundreds of pounds with this Brand New Pricewatch PriceGuide from Mobility Matters, a group of independent showroom based distributors.

Incredibly, prices vary substantially depending on where and how you buy and alarmingly, you could end up



paying £100's more for exactly the same product. Don't make the mistake of paying way over the odds unnecessarily.

The new PriceGuide explains what to look out for and provides you with realistic price ranges so you are less likely to get caught out. It's free and it's invaluable.

Call now and your local distributor will send you a copy of the priceguide to help you before you commit yourself.

Call the 24hour request line now on 08705 134130

or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN703, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 1BR



Pilot schemes push ahead

The government is pressing ahead with pilot projects aimed at finding jobs for more of the one million unemployed disabled people who want to work.

Work and Pensions Secretary Andrew Smith made the announcement last month, after consultation on the government's *Pathways to Work* green paper.

Pilot projects in seven UK areas will include early support from "skilled personal advisers", access to new rehabilitation services and more support for people with

health problems who move from Incapacity Benefit to Jobseekers Allowance.

There will also be greater financial incentives to return to work, including a £40 a week Return to Work Credit for 52 weeks for those who find a job paying less than £15,000 a year, and discretionary payments of up to £300 to help find work.

Smith said most responses in the consultation "endorsed" the government's approach, and that it had "taken on board many useful suggestions".

"These pilots are not about

forcing sick or disabled people into work, but about giving work options to those who previously felt they had none," he said.

Smith's announcement came as the Institute for Public Policy Research released a report* calling on the government to adopt a more ambitious long-term strategy on disabled employment.

Co-author Kate Stanley said: "They are moving in the right direction, but the pace is too slow and the scale too small."

* *The Missing Million*, from Central Books, tel 0845 458 9910

Disabled minister

A disabled MP has been appointed a junior Home Office minister as part of Tony Blair's Cabinet reshuffle.

Slough MP Fiona Mactaggart, who has multiple sclerosis, was previously chair of the parliamentary Labour women's group.

Meanwhile, Jacqui Smith has left the Department of Health for the Department of Trade and Industry. She has also been made deputy minister for women.

Stuart Notholt, director of policy and public affairs for the National Autistic Society, praised Smith's work on social care and said "she will be greatly missed".

Mark Morris, head of political affairs at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), worked with Smith on modernizing hearing aid provision. He said: "It's very sad to see her move on, as we had a very good relationship with her. But reshuffles are part of politics."

Rosie Winterton is to take on responsibility for social care as the new health minister and Dr Stephen Ladyman, who set up and chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism, has become a junior health minister.

Notholt said Ladyman's appointment was "really great news for autism".

In brief

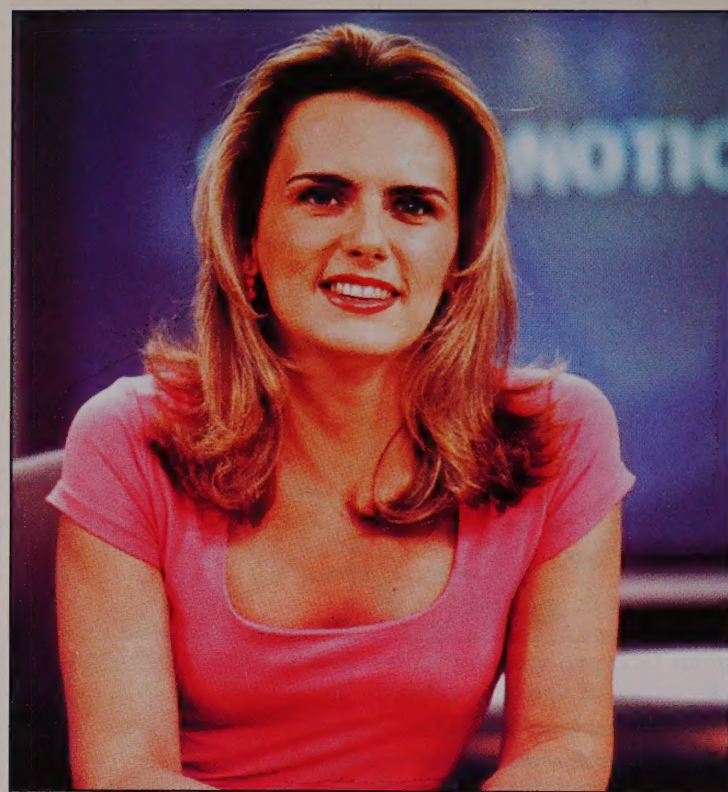
Online exclusion

One third of university websites fail to meet access guidelines, according to research by design company Nomensa, which tested the sites of 100 top UK universities.

Transport snub

Disabled people still feel excluded from London's public transport, according to a report by The London Transport Users' Committee*. The report also found Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride services for disabled people to be popular but often unreliable.

* *Transport for All*, www.ltuc.org.uk



Message to Euro media

About 200 representatives from public and commercial broadcasting networks, advertising and communication companies and disability organisations across Europe have committed themselves to improving the representation of disabled people in mainstream media.

The European Declaration on Media and Disability called for more positive images of disabled people in programmes and advertising campaigns, greater employment of disabled people in the industry, and more accessible workplaces.

Delegates at a two-day conference in Athens in June, attended by the UK's Minister for Disabled People, Maria Eagle, approved a pre-prepared declaration with few changes and agreed to take it back to their organisations "for discussion and endorsement".

Suggestions for achieving these aims included action plans, equality training, training and employment pro-

grammes and access audits, introducing disability into media studies courses, using appropriate technology, sharing best practice and joining a new European Disability Forum (EDF) media and disability network.

The EDF is setting up a committee to take the declaration forward.

The tightly packed agenda included no workshops and limited question time, but some campaigns, shared employment experiences and calls to make new technologies more available won praise.

Simon Minty, disability consultant and associate of the Broadcasting and Creative Industries Disability Network, said: "I'm not sure who is signing up to the declaration and, when it is done, where it goes. You need a lot of independents, commercials, a mix of people who are actually on board with it. But the idea of a European-wide network could be good." www.edf-feph.org

Freedom, Independence and Reliability



Sunrise Medical



Shoprider



Invacare/Scan Mob

Powerchairs promise to you:

- * Unique price guarantee that you can't buy cheaper anywhere
- * Free home assessments
- * Free 12 months insurance on new models
- * No VAT
- * No Driving License required
- * Finance available on request
- * We stock machines that carry up to 39 stone weight limit
- * Up to 8mph for road use
- * Up to 50 miles on one charge
- * Automatic battery charge included
- * All major credit cards accepted

100's of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets
INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE ON SELECTED MODELS, SUBJECT TO STATUS

For further help and advice FREEPHONE

0800 0746834

www.power-chairs.com

PowerchairS

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

PRIDE / JAZZY



CTM

Part Exchange Welcome

Conference highlights

- The Dutch Ministry of Health, the Dutch Council for the Chronically Sick and Disabled and a commercial advertising agency have produced ongoing advertising campaigns. By 2003, 67 per cent of the population have seen the campaign of whom 98 per cent were more positive about disabled people.
- A Spanish commercial animation series about a blind boy and his guide dog, combining humour and information and supported by the blind charity, ONCE, attracted 51 per cent of all Spanish children.
- The first disabled mainstream news journalist and presenter, Nuria del Saz (above), from Spain, who is blind, has done her job for five years, helped by adaptive technology. "My main obstacle has been narrow-minded people," she said.
- Only the UK has a law requiring subtitling on commercial channels. Last year, over 80 per cent of UK terrestrial channel programmes were subtitled.

Major blow for Euthanasia protests mount access rights

DN EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY GLYNN

A blind man was thrown out of a bookshop because he was accompanied by his guide dog, but lost his case when he took action under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Colin Fowler of Gwynedd, Wales, took Snowdon Books in Bangor to county court when he was told to leave the shop because he was with his guide dog.

The court ruling has now put the access rights of people with guide dogs in doubt.

It upheld the decision by the defendant, Nicholas Gray, managing director of Snowdon Books, not to allow guide dogs onto his premises because of a health and safety risk.

Gray told the court he was concerned about the possibility of the dog urinating, a blind person tripping over books, or children falling over the dog's lead.

Tom Pay, director of policy for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, said the

charity was concerned about the judgement and was considering what action to take.

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) supported Fowler's case but has refused to back his appeal as it believes the law needs changing.

A spokeswoman for the DRC said: "There's a very real risk we won't win on appeal and it will make the situation worse."

"If we appeal further up it could create a legal precedent that other judges have to follow."

Fowler said the DRC's decision was "disgraceful" and he was now scared he would be thrown out of other shops.

"Is this the end for guide dogs and their access rights? If Martin Luther King had had that attitude where would racism be in this day and age? It doesn't bode well for the future. It has put everything back 30 years."

Gray said he had no plans to change his policy. "After being proved 100 per cent correct, why would I?"



CHRIS KILLICK

Disabled people who protested outside the House of Lords last month say their efforts helped marshal opposition to a private members bill that would legalise assisted suicide.

They believe Lord Joffe's Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill is "dangerous and threatening" to thousands of disabled people.

Jane Campbell, chair of the Social Care Institute of Excellence and a Disability Rights Commissioner, who backed the protest, said: "I want to highlight the impossibility of establishing a safe regulatory framework for assisted suicide in our current social climate."

More than 40 people, including members of the Disabled

People's Direct Action Network, held a huge fake syringe outside the Lords during the protest on 6 June.

Several peers discussed their concerns with protesters and at least two were said to have been won over by their arguments.

A seven hour debate ended with the bill passing its second reading. It will now start its committee stage.

But Baroness Wilkins, a prominent disabled peer, said: "It is not possible to provide sufficient safeguards to protect the thousands of vulnerable people – sick, elderly and severely disabled people – from all the overt or hidden pressures to end their lives."

Information service in jeopardy

The future of a disability information service is under threat after its parent charity said it could no longer afford to fund it. The Queen Elizabeth's Foundation (QEF), which runs the Disability Information Service (DISS), is holding urgent talks to discuss its future.

DISS provides information to around 250,000 people a year through a free enquiry ser-

vice and national database, but has a forecast deficit of £144,000 for 2003/04.

A spokesman for QEF said it was unable to continue supporting DISS in its present form. "Funding is very tight. We want to be able to continue the service, but we can't promise. There might have to be redundancies."

Hazel Plastow, manager of

DISS, said they had been "overwhelmed" by support and would do everything to ensure the service could continue.

"We have looked at cutting certain parts of the service but the service is so interlinked that would make it less cost-effective. The best and probably only solution is for DISS to go independent, which would save money."

"...it was wonderful to be independent again. We recommend your company to anyone who needs a wheelchair accessible vehicle"

Mr & Mrs. Collins from Bristol

Mrs. Collins loves how easily their compact Kangoo goes up their narrow drive and into the garage. Her husband Roy just loves being able to get out and about in it, particularly with their friends and relatives.

We understand the Mobility needs of wheelchair passengers and offer a great combination of personal service and a wide choice of vehicles. Find out how we can help your situation.

● **FREE no obligation nationwide test drive** and demonstration service

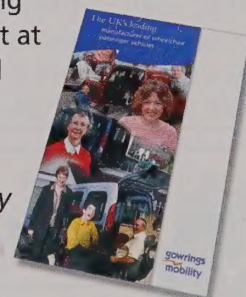
● **Widest range of** converted vehicles

● **Friendly and experienced** advisors

● **The UK's leading manufacturer** of wheelchair passenger vehicles

● **All servicing** carried out at your **local garage**

To receive a **FREE** information pack simply ring our Lo-call number 0845 608 8020 or fill in the coupon below



Lo-Call 0845 608 8020

www.gowringsmobility.co.uk

Please complete and return this coupon to:
Gowrings Mobility, FREEPOST, Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5ZW.

Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name

Surname


Address

Postcode

Home Tel.

☐ Send me more information

☐ Contact me to organise a test drive

 **Motability** accredited supplier

gowrings mobility

FCP-DN-07/03

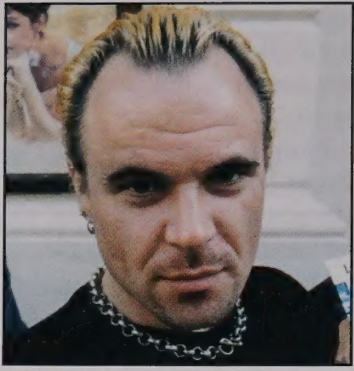
Kept off screen

Broadcasters are failing to show more disabled people on screen because of a misguided belief it will put off viewers, according to research.

Seventy nine per cent of viewers questioned were in favour of a disabled person reading the evening news, yet professionals still believe audiences are not ready to see an increase in portrayal of disability.

The study, by the BBC, Broadcasting Standards Commission and Independent Television Commission, found representation of disability had remained static at 11 per cent of programmes since 1999.

It was published as members of the Broadcasting and Creative Industries Disability



Still in the wings: Presenters like Mik Scarlett (left) and Lara Masters are rare examples of disabled people on the box



Network (BCIDN) met to report on their progress since pledging a year ago that they would increase the number of disabled people in front of and behind the camera and access to services and buildings.

Colin Low, chief executive of

the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, welcomed plans put in place by channels such as ITV and Sky to meet their commitments, but said training and work placement schemes to increase the numbers of disabled employers were just

“scratching the surface” of organisations like the BBC.

Meanwhile, bosses at the new communications super regulator, Ofcom, are debating whether to give disabled people a permanent voice in the executive.

Chief executive Steven Carter said he was considering setting up a standing committee on disability issues which would initially be advisory but might be given greater powers.

The regulator has a duty to include members of minority groups in its consumer panel, but Carter told BCIDN that disability was still a “first division issue by comparison with the premier league issue of gender and race equality”.

Carers at ‘breaking point’

Labour has failed in its pledge to help carers of disabled people, according to charities, with eight in ten families at “breaking point” because of a lack of support.

Six out of ten are getting no short breaks from caring and one in three have had their breaks cut in the last year, said Mencap.

Meanwhile, the Children’s Society and the YMCA said children as young as five are working over 50 hours a week to care for a parent or other relative.

And a survey by Carer’s UK for Carer’s Week found only a third of carers have had an assessment of their needs from social services, despite it becoming a legal right two years ago.

The charity said local authority staff had either not been made aware of the legislation or did not have the money to support carers properly.

Chief executive Diana Whitworth said: “The measures the government has introduced to help carers are not working in practice.

“This is totally unacceptable and deeply frustrating – especially given the fact that without carers the NHS and social care would grind to a halt.”

A Department of Health spokeswoman said the proportion of assessments leading to increased services had risen from 31 per cent before 2001 to 42 per cent after 2001.

Badge fraud increase

Blue badge fraud has “exploded” in the London borough of Camden, with disabled people’s car windscreens being repeatedly smashed by thieves.

Some residents have had their vehicles broken into five times in just 12 months and others have asked for their disabled parking bays to be removed, fearing they are a “red light” to fraudsters.

The council is bringing in its own, alternative badges with car registration numbers on them in the next two months, but these will only be for use near people’s homes.

Nadia Reif, whose son has cerebral palsy, had her blue badge stolen twice.

She said: “It happened to my neighbour four months ago and another neighbour two doors down with an autistic daughter.

“It costs £100 each time to replace the windscreen. How

can people be so disgusting?”

Local councillor Stephen Hocking said the problem had spiralled with the increase in controlled parking zones, brought in to stop people parking in areas just outside the congestion charging zone.

But he said it was not being taken seriously by police and called for traffic wardens to have the power to inspect the back of badges.

Camden police said they could not investigate single thefts from cars unless there was CCTV or forensic evidence.

A government spokeswoman said local authorities would be given formal powers of inspection, as promised in December 2002, “as soon as parliamentary time permitted”.

She said it was also considering setting up a national database of card holders.



Helping hounds: Selby in North Yorkshire has won the first Hearing Dog Friendly Award. Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (HDDP) made the award in recognition of the town’s awareness-raising efforts. Pictured (from left) Andy Cook of HDDP, Selby councillor Richard Sweeting, Colin Wallwork of Selby Chamber of Trade and Commerce, and Jenny Smith with hearing dog Riley.

ME Association may close within weeks

Britain’s leading ME charity, which sacked its chief medical advisor after he went public with concerns about its financial problems, is in such dire straits that it could close within weeks.

The ME Association, Britain’s oldest and largest charity for people with ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), is asking its members to dig into their pockets to help it out of “deep financial trouble” and has launched an appeal to raise £150,000 by July 14.

Without the funds the charity will fold, but as *DN* went to press, with a month to go, only £50,000 had been raised.

The association sacked Dr Charles Shepherd, who had worked for it for 15 years and has been the leading spokesman for people with ME, after he raised concerns about its financial troubles.

The move followed the resignation of three of the charity’s seven trustees, which Shepherd said the association had kept secret. Shepherd informed the Charity Commission of his concerns.

The charity’s patron, Louie Ramsay, daughter of the man who first named the condition, has also resigned.

Shepherd said: “I felt I couldn’t go along with putting

my name to an appeal for vast amounts of money when my view was that the organisation was being mismanaged.”

An ME Association spokesman said the financial problems were caused by a decline in charitable donations and denied they had kept trustees’ resignations a secret.

He said they were cooperating with the Charity Commission and added: “I hope we can persuade members it is worth supporting.”

Any money raised by the appeal will be returned if the charity closes.

To give donations, tel: 08707 443011



HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PERSONS

Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed. Flights to Cyprus, Tenerife, Malaga, Lanzarote, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve, Malta, Rhodes and Florida.

Weekend Breaks - Paris, Dublin & Amsterdam.

Holiday homes in France.

Our brochure with coloured pictures is available at www.access-travel.co.uk

or please apply to:

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd, 6 The Hillock, Astley, Lancs M29 7GW, tel: 01942 888844.



Motability tells wheelchair user — 'Let your wife drive'

DN EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY GLYNN

A disabled man has been refused a Motability car because he is married and was told his wife can drive him around.

Richard Monaghan, from Bournemouth, is quadriplegic and has driven for 30 years.

His car is 12 years old and when he applied for a new one, Motability turned down the application, saying his wife could drive a wheelchair accessible vehicle that would meet his mobility needs.

"My wife's not happy about driving me everywhere. She's

got a life of her own. She's got other commitments," he said.

"We have a ten-year-old son. What if we get divorced? Her driving me around would actually lead to a divorce," he added.

Paul Smith, director of the Spinal Injuries Association, said the charity had campaigned for the specialist vehicles fund for drivers to be set up for this purpose.

"I'm appalled. I can't believe that this has happened," he said.

"It's about independence, but he's clearly not going to be allowed independence just

because he has got a wife.

"To suggest that his wife had to ferry him around when he can drive is ludicrous. Anyone who is married need not bother applying."

Monaghan is now preparing to appeal against Motability's decision.

A spokesman for Motability said: "The specialised vehicles, which allow a disabled person to enter and drive from their wheelchair, are very expensive.

"This means that it is not possible to provide financial help to everybody who applies."



There's no place for home

Young disabled people are being forced to live with their parents or in homes for older people because there is no suitable accommodation, a new report shows.

The report* follows a two-year inquiry by the disability charity John Grooms into health care, housing and social services for disabled people. It found that more than 8,000 young disabled adults are living in unsuitable homes.

The report also shows that services for disabled people are poorly planned, inadequate and inflexible due to a shortage of accurate information about the number of disabled people.

And it reveals there has been a 28 per cent increase in the number of disabled people in the last 20 years.

The charity is now calling on the government to work more closely with local authorities and the voluntary sector.

Baroness Howard of



Breckland, who headed the inquiry, said: "Care for disabled people is a postcode lottery.

"Disabled people are too often forced to put up with second-class and inappropriate housing, care and health services."

Mike Shaw, executive director of John Grooms, said better cooperation between health and social services is needed.

"It's shameful that in 2003 a large number of disabled people are 'warehoused' in settings not appropriate to their needs."

Labour MP Anne Begg (above, right, at the launch) has sponsored an Early Day Motion supporting the report's recommendations.

*Where do you think you're going? is available from John Grooms, tel: 020 7452 2114

Council tax victory for care home residents

Disability charities are celebrating the government's decision to change the law so residents of care homes who have ensuite bathroom and kitchen facilities will not have to pay council tax.

Some residents of homes run by John Grooms and the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) were handed unexpected council tax bills after their accommodation was upgraded to comply with the Government's Care Standards Act.

But the government has now announced that it aims to introduce new legislation this year to ensure all English care homes are assessed for council tax as single residences, even if they provide self-contained units for independent living.

Some John Grooms and RNIB residents still face appeals over the decision to make them pay council tax because their rooms have their own kitchen and bathroom facilities.

In brief

Child care appeal

The government has launched an advertising campaign to attract more disabled people into child care*.

Disabled child carers who would like to help with the campaign can call Barry Sawyer on 020 7261 8553
*www.childcarecareers.gov.uk

Down's survey

More than one in three members of the public believe that a child with Down's syndrome would be unlikely to attend a mainstream school.

The survey, for the Down's Syndrome Association, also found the public underestimated the ability of people with Down's syndrome to keep a job and get married.

DN CAMPAIGN



BA tackles problem of lost wheelchairs

British Airways (BA) is introducing a series of new measures to address the problem of lost and damaged wheelchairs.

The airline admitted it had had "some problems" with wheelchair damage and was keen to address the issue in view of DN's Flight Rights campaign.

It now plans to train staff about different types of wheelchairs and how they can be damaged, and produce information for employees about

how to help customers whose wheelchairs are lost or damaged.

It was also due to co-host a forum at Heathrow Airport with British Airports Authority on customer disability in June.

Other planned measures include undertaking more research with disabled customers and improving links with airport wheelchair services.

Alison Dalton, BA's diversity manager, said: "We are aware that any damage to a wheel-

chair is potentially disastrous for its owner and we want to ensure that we understand and get to the root of the problem in order to find satisfactory solutions."

Phil Friend, director of disability training consultants Churchill and Friend, who launched DN's Flight Rights campaign, welcomed BA's efforts but added: "I am very disappointed that they are the only airline that appear interested in this issue."



FASHIONABLE CLOTHES FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Visitors to the Wearable stand at the Mobility Roadshow were amazed to see the fantastic range of fashionable Wearable wheelchair clothes and accessories.

To see them for yourself phone or email us for a FREE copy of our full colour catalogue.

Phone us now on 0141-774-9000 or email us on enquiries@wearableclothing.com



Letter from Brussels

Richard Howitt



Disability anti-discrimination powers introduced to Europe in 1997 may be lost – unless we step up the pressure



With champagne corks popping in Brussels and warnings about the end of our nation issued by eurosceptics, disabled people might think the European Union's (EU) draft constitution issued recently doesn't concern them, but they would be wrong.

The constitution will update the rules by which the EU operates, defining our ability to pass disability rights legislation.

The draft has been produced by a body of elected representatives. This was meant to ensure that the EU's rules would be more people-friendly. But when the working draft was produced three weeks before the deadline, there was no reference to disability anywhere in the first part of the constitution.

It looked as if the hard-won victory to introduce disability anti-discrimination into Europe's powers in 1997 might be lost, breaking a cast iron promise that the new constitution would not weaken existing powers.

So our Disability Rights

Richard Howitt MEP is president of the European Parliament All-Party Disability Group, e-mail: ep@edf-feph.org

All-Party group held a press conference for the first time with other non-discrimination groups to protest.

And when the European Convention met early this month to debate the final constitution treaty, disability organisations were out demonstrating.

What emerged probably does defend disabled peoples' position, but it remains a problem.

"Non discrimination" has been introduced as one of Europe's core values, but the groups listed as victims are based on nationality, age and gender. Once again, surprise, surprise, disability has been left off the list. This hierarchy of discrimination should be opposed by anyone who is committed to equality.

Still, the draft constitution is a draft only, and will now be discussed by government representatives, and the European Parliament, before it is finally agreed. I suspect it will be difficult to change its direction, but please write to your MP and MEP to support our cause.

JOHN EVANS



Positive image: a photograph of tyre fitter Andrew Williams, which will be featured later this year in *No Limits*, a touring exhibition of pictures of Welsh learning disabled people. Charity SCOVO will use the collection to promote rights and inclusion. Ideas for photo opportunities to John Evans, email john@scovo.org.uk

Progress slow in justice reform

The head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has told MPs that many people in the criminal justice system have failed to embrace changes intended to make it easier for learning disabled people to give evidence.

David Calvert-Smith QC, director of public prosecutions in England and Wales, said a learning disabled victim of crime still faces a "course of almost Grand National proportions before he or she can get justice in our system".

Last year, lawyers were allowed to apply to the judge for "special measures" for "vulnerable witnesses", such as allowing them to give evidence via TV links or use screens to block defendants from view.

Calvert-Smith told a meeting of the Voice All-Party

Parliamentary Group on crimes against learning disabled people that some judges "need to have quite strong applications" to convince them to allow special measures.

And he agreed that some barristers were uncomfortable with some of the special measures, including the use of intermediaries to speak on behalf of severely learning disabled people in court, which has yet to be implemented.

He said there had been a "real change in culture" in the CPS, but admitted there were "quite startling differences" between different areas of the country in how often prosecutors applied for special measures.

And he called for people to complain to the CPS if prosecutors fail learning disabled people in court.

International first

The first ever disability agency working on international development to be managed by disabled people has been launched in the UK.

The International Disability Equality Agency (IDEA) is being run by four disabled members of the international committee of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP).

Dr Bill Albert, one of the organisation's founders, said: "For years we have seen development projects all being managed by able-bodied organisations who have no clue about the

human rights issues of disability.

"We thought people like us, other disabled people in the field, should be bidding for the work."

It has already won a £500,000 contract from the Department for International Development to manage a disability empowerment project, in partnership with organisations of disabled people in Samara and Togliatti in Russia.

IDEA will also offer training and consultancy for NGOs and other groups. www.socialaction.info

News Review

A monthly round-up of news from the mainstream media

War syndrome blow

A Medical Research Council report found "little evidence" that health problems experienced by soldiers in the first Gulf War were caused by vaccinations.

The Ministry of Defence does not recognise a "Gulf War syndrome" but said it is "keeping an open mind" on the causes of such illnesses and is backing a programme to monitor the health of soldiers returning from the latest conflict.

Meanwhile, a High Court judge ruled that a war pensions appeal tribunal was entitled to say that the reason 1991 Gulf War veteran Shaun Rusling should have a pension was because of a syndrome linked to his Gulf War service.

Costs twice as high

Mental illness in England costs £77.4 billion a year, according to a new study by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health.

The centre said the figure was twice as high as previously estimated because, as well as lost economic output by people unable to work and the cost of care, it also took account of the costs of reduced quality of life and loss of life.

Man U may score

Reports suggested that Premiership champions Manchester United are trying to sign a disabled American goalkeeper.

Tim Howard has Tourette's syndrome and has been voted Humanitarian of the Year by a charity for his work with children with the condition.

Howard plays for New York/New Jersey MetroStars in the US.

Pain treatment delay

Some people with severe persistent pain have to wait more than two years before being seen by an appropriate specialist, a new survey revealed.

The report by research organisation Dr Foster and the Pain Society, showed eight hospital pain management clinics had closed referral lists from GPs in the previous 12 months.



AVOID ENTRAPMENT
keep your clients safe

- Safe and comfortable cushioning.
- Inflatable all around protection against injury.
- Use for respite care/holidays.

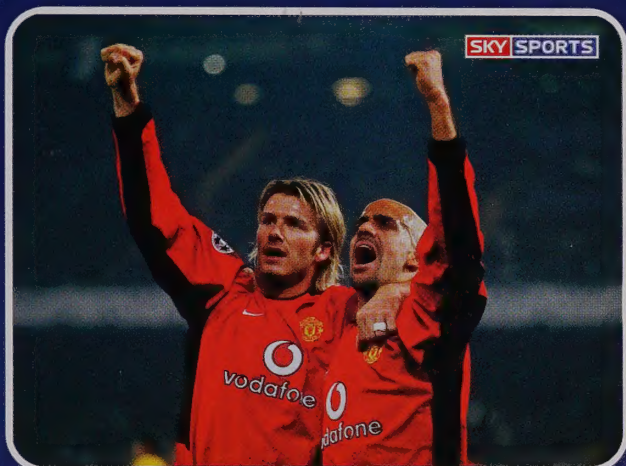


Genie Care
safety and care in bed

Call Genie Care **NOW** for a **FREE** demonstration
Tel: 01903 733377 Fax: 01903 734368 www.geniecare.com
ISO9001 Registered. Member BHTA

GET £1
STANDARD
INSTALLATION PLUS
A FREE SKY ACTIVE KEYPAD,
when you subscribe to a
Sky World package before 31st July 2003.

Great TV shouldn't be exclusive TV



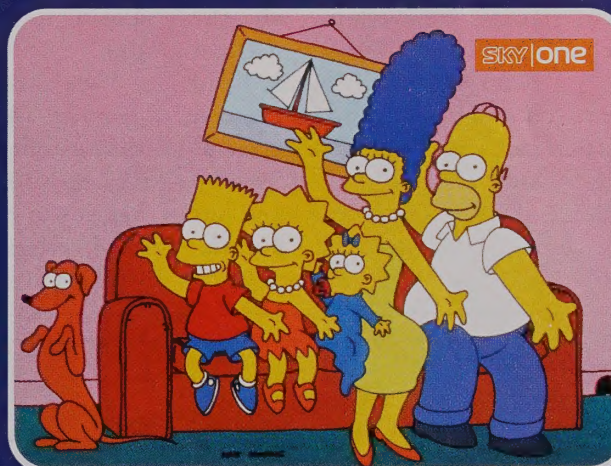
Live Premiership and Champions League football



Live 24-hour award-winning news



The biggest movies including About A Boy



Fantastic family entertainment including
The Simpsons

Because Sky want to make quality TV available to as many people as possible, we provide a comprehensive and easy-to-use service for disabled people:

- Over 45,000 hours of subtitled programming a year on channels as diverse as Sky News, Sky Box Office, Sky Sports and Sky One.
- More than 3,000 hours of Audio Described programming a year.
- All bills and literature available in alternative media including Braille, large print and audio.

Call 08705 66 33 33 or textphone 08702 401 910 or visit sky.com/disability

sky

Free Keypad offer: Offer closes 31st July 2003. Only available to customers who order a digital satellite system and subscribe to Sky digital selecting a Sky World package. (Options 1A – 6A in your Contract Booklet). Offer limited to one per household, cannot be taken up in conjunction with any other Sky digital subscription offer, except as stated. Keypad will be dispatched following receipt of your signed subscription contract and first subscription payment.

Installation offer and subscription: Under this offer standard installation costs £1 if you subscribe to a Sky World package (Options 1A – 6A in your Contracts Booklet) before 31st July 2003. Minimum Sky digital subscription 12 months. Packages from £12.50 per month. Sky World packages currently cost from £36 – £38 per month. Prices may vary in accordance with the subscription contract. Subscription payable by direct debit or credit card only. Offer may not be taken in conjunction with any other Sky digital subscription offer. Offer only available for the installation of digital satellite equipment provided under Sky's free minidish and digibox offer. **Free minidish and digibox offer:** You do not have to subscribe to Sky digital to take up this offer. You must be eligible for and enter into the Interactive Discount Contract with Marketing Contributions Ltd. Under the offer you agree to keep your digibox connected to a fixed and operational telephone line and a viewing card in the digibox for at least 12 months. Unless you take up the special installation offer, standard installation costs £60 if you select a Sky World package, £100 if you select any other package, or £120 if you don't subscribe. Additional charges may apply for non-standard installation. Installation may be subject to availability delay. Sky will select the make and model of the equipment supplied under this offer, functionality may vary. Offers and information not applicable to previous and existing Sky digital subscribers. Not applicable in the Republic of Ireland. Eligibility and other conditions apply. Correct at time of print 28th April 2003. The Simpsons™ and © 2003 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

NEWCASTLE CHRONICLE AND JOURNAL



Plaudits for Lycra

Wearing "splints" made of Lycra can make it easier for people with movement impairments to eat, walk and swim, according to newly published research*.

Dynamic Lycra Splints (DLS) can help some adults and children with conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis and people who have had strokes or head injuries.

The technique involves using Lycra to place limbs and muscles in certain positions and help the user experience more appropriate patterns of movement.

The findings were welcomed

by cerebral palsy charity Scope, which supported the research project and linked up seven years ago with Second Skin**, a company which specialises in DLS.

People who took part in the research found it easier to perform activities such as painting, swimming, using keyboards and drinking.

Richard Parnell, Scope's head of research and public policy, said DLS can "really make a difference to disabled people's lives".

He called on more primary care trusts and other organisations to fund the technique.

Caroline Wild, from

Newcastle, whose daughter Eleanor (left) was fitted with a splint that runs from her wrists to her knees, said: "As a mum, this makes a huge difference to family life."

"Now Eleanor is actively involved and can sit up and eat with all the family and, more importantly, Dynamic Lycra Splinting enables Eleanor to be more active and independent."

*A Clinical Evaluation of the Functional Gains Associated with Dynamic Lycra Splinting, related to Adults and Children with Movement Disorders, www.scope.org.uk

**Tel: 0131 339 8885 or fax: 0131 339 8788

Cleft centres delayed

The Department of Health has been criticised for not forcing through promises made five years ago to improve care for people with cleft lips and palates.

The government accepted a report in 1998 which was highly critical of such services.

Recommendations included reducing the number of cleft centres and creating a new framework of regional centres by April 2000.

But two areas in England

and Wales are still engaged in public consultations and one, Manchester and Liverpool, was only due to launch its consultation as DN went to press.

Dai Roberts-Harry, last year's president of the Craniofacial Society of Great Britain and Ireland, said negotiations in the north-west had been "going on for years" and had been "pitifully slow".

He said: "It has been left largely down to local negotiators to try and sort it out."

Gareth Davies, chief executive of the Cleft Lip and Palate Association, added: "It's been a long, protracted process."

A DOH spokeswoman said it had taken "longer than anticipated" to set up the new centres.

"We are continuing to provide advice for the new centres but at the end of the day developing a service... has got to be a matter for the local centres and the clinicians working in them."

Mental health drugs should be free – Mind

Mental health charity Mind is lobbying the government for free prescriptions for people with ongoing mental health problems.

The call follows a *Health Which?* magazine survey which showed a "shocking" 58 per cent of people with mental health problems had gone without treatments because of costs.

Sixty-four per cent were spending an average of £68 a month on prescribed and un-prescribed treatment.

Mind policy director Sophie Corlett, the study's author, said the lack of counsellors and psychotherapists available on the NHS was having a "massive" impact on costs for individuals.

"People end up buying 'talking cures' privately or going onto medication when it isn't really the best answer."

"If the government were to invest in training and employing therapists instead, the reduction in drugs spending would be huge – and long term."

The Department of Health said more information and

choice about treatments were central to its aim to modernise mental health services.

But its priority was helping people who had difficulty paying prescription charges.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health has advised that the anti-depressant Seroxat should not be used to treat people under 18. But it warned patients not to stop taking the drug suddenly without contacting their GP.

The statement came after the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) obtained nine studies previously withheld by manufacturers GlaxoSmithKline showing Seroxat could cause suicidal tendencies and other problems in children.

Mind questioned the power of the MHRA over the drugs industry and how proactive it was in seeking clinical trial data from drug companies.

A new expert group, set up by the Committee on Safety of Medicines, is investigating the effects of Seroxat and other similar drugs on adults.

GENIE

Good health demands that everyone should stand up, preventing bladder problems and assisting with better circulation, digestion, bone development and pressure management. The versatile Genie also assists carers by alleviating unnecessary lifting.

INDEPENDENCE

VERTICAL MOBILITY

POSTURE CONTROL

MORE COMFORT

QUALITY HOME LIFE

EASY TOILETING

BETTER HEALTH

CARER-FRIENDLY

The Genie - Ingenious!

Further information from
Easy Care Products Limited.
Park Lane, Old Park, Telford, TF3 4TE.
Fax: 01952 616588

easycare products

CE

01952 610300



NOW SUCCESSFULLY
CRASH TESTED



In brief

Spinal breakthrough

British scientists have hailed a possible cure for spinal paralysis after a team at the National Institute for Medical Research healed the injured spinal cord of a laboratory rat.

They now hope to run human trials using the technique, which involves transplanting nerve endings from the nose to grow a "bridge" across severed tissue.

Pass on your tips

Do you have a tip that has improved your health – and could help other DN readers? If so, let us know, and we'll put it on the health page.

Call 020 7619 7323, email editor@disabilitynow.org.uk, or write to Health Tips, *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.



John identifies with children. Like them, he hates being told what he can and can't do.

"People have preconceived ideas about disabilities and how much you can do" says childcare professional John Kannerick, who has cerebral palsy.

But John hasn't let this stop him. Not only is he a fully-qualified learning support assistant in a school but he also has a second job, as a playleader in an after-school and holiday club. In fact, far from holding him back, John's disability has helped him in his work.

"My disability has made me more determined and more patient with other people. I've always been aware that as a child, very often your voice isn't heard and people can be very patronising."

When it comes to childcare, it's what you can do that counts, not what you can't. You don't need to be able to play basketball like John, but you do need to be able to inspire and motivate children.

Regardless of whether you have a disability such as impaired sight or hearing, mobility problems or Down's syndrome, there could still be a place for you in childcare.

We have lots of different jobs covering all ages of children, from childminders and nursery school staff to out-of-school club workers.

"I'd say to any disabled person considering a career in childcare that it's up to you to prove you can do it. I've done it and I know I can make a difference."

Call us for a booklet on careers in childcare, also available in large print, Braille and as an audio cassette.

SureStart
www.surestart.gov.uk

Careers in Childcare
0800 99 66 00
Textphone users call: 0800 16 99 451

DN.



Light fantastic: Caitlin Gillen, two, explores a new "sensory room" at the Millpond Adventure Playground in Crawley. The room is part of an extensive council refit to allow disabled children to enjoy the playground alongside non-disabled children. Tel 01293 520 225

Islands go hi-tec

A project that offers help with computers to isolated disabled people in the Shetland Islands has been awarded a grant by the National Lottery's Community Fund.

The £59,285 grant will allow Disability Shetland (DS) to employ a member of staff for three years to boost training of disabled people in computer technology and teach voluntary

organisations how to make their equipment accessible so they can use more disabled staff.

The charity will also continue to loan computer equipment to disabled people, many of whom live on islands as far as 70 miles from Shetland's main town of Lerwick.

Davy Nicholson, of DS, said: "The isolation factor can be enormous"

Lantern's last chance

Disabled people and celebrity supporters are calling on a polio charity to reverse its decision to close a residential and holiday home.

The British Polio Fellowship (BPF) decided in March to shut down the Lantern hotel in Worthing, Sussex (right), by the end of this year.

Trustees said they could no longer afford to subsidise the Lantern, which has 18 rooms for residents and 22 beds for disabled hotel guests, in the light of a fall in their financial reserves.

But BPF member Clare Colfer, from Southsea, Hampshire, who has stayed in the hotel and wanted to move

into the care home, says the BPF has behaved "absolutely terribly" and should have alerted members sooner.

She hopes a package to save the Lantern will be accepted by the charity at a meeting in July.

Patrons of the charity are backing her campaign, including astronomer Sir Patrick Moore, and actors Bryan Forbes, Hannah Gordon and William Franklyn.

Franklyn told DN the BPF should not "look for the easy way out" and evade its "responsibility".

Andrew Kemp, director of the BPF, blamed falling numbers of polio survivors who



wanted to stay in the hotel or live in the care home.

He didn't rule out the rescue package, but has not yet seen it. "We have kept the Lantern open by way of subsidy for some time but our obligation to the wider membership and to the BPF's long-term future requires trustees to take action," he said.

Controversy as majority take charge

The disabled people's umbrella group in Wales has triumphed over critics to become a majority disabled-run organisation.

Members of Disability Wales (DW) voted 80 per cent in favour of committing to majority-control by disabled people by 2007 and of ensuring the organisation's executive committee and chief executive are disabled.

DW operations manager

Anne Mears-Rees said the result would give the organisation "much greater credibility" than before.

"It's about control, about saying our organisations should be controlled by us, just as women's organisations are controlled by women."

But several local groups said they would be withdrawing their membership as a result of the change.

Charles Peck, of the 400-strong Welsh Region British Polio Foundation, said members were "disgusted" by what they saw as a "kick in the teeth" for parents, friends and carers.

He added: "It's ridiculous that 100 per cent of the executive committee and the chief executive should be disabled – it should be about who is the best person for the job."

CREATING NEW HORIZONS WITH INVATRAVEL



As a long established company, Invatravel provide factory built people carriers, specially for the needs of those with disabilities.

Caravelle

- Various access options available
- Rear or side, ramp or lift
- Options include disabled driver independence
- Prices from **£18,000** ranging to **£35,000**

Six way drivers seat base

- To ease transfer from wheelchair
- Powers forward and back
- Powers up and down
- Rotates through 90°

Hi-Liner

- Caters for the taller wheelchair user
- 58" access through the door and internal height by a lowered floor section
- Low (12 degrees) angle ramp
- When stationary the roof can be elevated to give approx 8 foot internal height making transfers a lot easier

USED CONVERTED CARAVELLES IN STOCK



INVATRAVEL
CONVERSIONS LTD

Established 1983

97 Lytham Road,
Southport,
Merseyside PR9 9UG

Telephone: 01704 506608

Fax: 01704 506607

E-mail: sales@invatravel.com

www.invatravel.com

www.scoot.co.uk/

invatravel_conversions



Commercial Vehicles

Recognised Converter

Minett shows class at tenth Dwarf Games



Nearly 100 sportsmen and women from Europe competed in the tenth National Open Dwarf Games held in Birmingham in May. Athletes from the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Finland and Denmark took part in the event, which included track and field events, swimming, indoor hockey, basketball and football. Kim Minett (above) was the only athlete to compete who received International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

funding. She won the shot putt with a distance of 6m 13cm. The distance is less than last year because the IPC has upped the weight of the shot putt from 2.76 to 3 kilograms. April Barrett, chair of the Dwarf Athletic Association of the UK, said: "All in all it was a very exhausting, wonderful weekend. The games were a great success." To get involved contact the Dwarf Athletic Association on 0121 454 5582

Sponsor needed

Sixteen world and nine European records were broken at the National Open Swimming Championships in Sheffield, but the competition's future is in doubt unless a sponsor is found. Nearly 350 swimmers from 24 countries took part in the championships which are rated second to the Paralympic Games in importance because of the high standard of competition. Malcolm Green from Nottingham was awarded the outstanding performance trophy after he broke six world records in the new hearing impaired class S15. Danielle Watts from Oxford broke three world records including the 50m and 100m freestyle in the S1 class. She won the outstanding women's performance award. But despite the successes, organiser Sarah Marl, of Disability Sport England, said the future of the championships was under threat. "It was really successful, the biggest international event in disability swimming in the UK. But we need a sponsor."

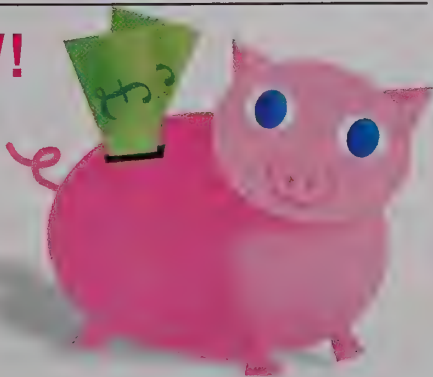
Willcox takes third singles win

Devon's Peter Willcox won his third men's singles title at the National Deaf Tennis Championships in Cardiff, beating Scotland's David Tunstall in two sets. Second seed Willcox, 21, had finished runner up for the last two years, but he had the edge over fourth seed Tunstall, 24, who was also looking for his third title, beating him 6-3, 6-4. In the ladies' singles, last year's runner-up and top seed Catherine Graham, from Lincolnshire, won her first national title when she beat Oxfordshire's Alex Simmons 6-3, 6-4. Willcox also won the doubles title when he paired up with last year's singles winner Anthony Sinclair, from Northern Ireland. The pair beat second seeds Tunstall and Cheshire's Darren O'Donnell 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.



Treat yourself and help DN!

Thanks to a partnership between DN and the website buy.at you can now shop on the internet and help us raise money at the same time. Simply visit the shopping website www.buy.at/disabilitynow and when you make a purchase, DN receives a small commission. Retailers include Marks and Spencer, Amazon, Comet, Blackwell's, Virgin Mobile, Oddbins, RAC and CD Wow!



LIFESTYLE SOLUTIONS

Make day to day living much easier with products designed to offer optimum comfort and correct postural seating.



FLEXUS -

a comfort, positional wheelchair with tilt in space and a programme of postural accessories to custom build the chair to meet individual requirements.

MINIFLEX -

a compact power chair with front wheel drive and tight turning circle for use indoors. Powered seat raise is standard and there is optional seat tilt or comfort seating.



DX COMPACT -

provides the best in an outdoor chair with good indoor capability. Powered seat raise and comfort seating are standard, with powered options for tilt, recline and footrests.



VITAL -

Ergonomically designed by a physiotherapist Vital provides comfort at the touch of a button. As the Scandinavian design chair rises or reclines correct postural seating is maintained throughout the movement. Legrests operate independently and provide both support and relief. The powered rise facilitates an optimum standing height required with armrests at a level to provide additional assistance. Swing back arms provide ease of transfer. Vital comes in small and large.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, FILL OUT THE REPLY CARD AND SEND TO US FREEPOST OR CALL OUR FREEPHONE NUMBER.

PLEASE STATE PRODUCT OF INTEREST:
 NAME:
 ADDRESS:
 POSTCODE: DAYTIME TEL NO:
 DN7/03

RAINBOW REHAB
 FREEPOST
 THE COACH HOUSE
 134 PUREWELL
 CHRISTCHURCH
 DORSET BH23 1BR
www.rainbow-rehab.co.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
 CALL FREEPHONE
0500 618008

It's no joke

Despite repeated complaints, disability jokes remain a staple on prime time television. Nuala Calvi investigates the effects they have, and the efforts being made to combat them

When a BBC Radio 2 listener complained about a gag Jonathan Ross made about the facial appearance of people who have had strokes, the presenter had his wrists slapped by his producer.

Since then, Ross has continued to clock up the number of "jokes" made on BBC TV and radio programmes that have caused offence to disabled people.

They include comments about people looking like they should "be on a variety bus", a colleague looking "special needs" because they were wearing a bad shirt, and a joke about Paul McCartney buying his wife Heather Mills a plane instead of a woman's razor for her artificial leg.

But Ross is not the only star to continue making jokes that offend disabled people.

DN readers have written in about a string of shows, such as the BBC's *Have I Got News For You*, *Johnny Vaughan Tonight* and ITV1's *Baddiel and Skinner Unplanned*, which recently included jokes about "dwarf throwing".

The experiences of those

of the spine, was ill in bed and flicking through the TV channels when she caught a scene on the BBC1 show *Alistair McGowan's Big Impression*.

One character remarked of another: "She's got the hump." The second character then turned around to reveal padding on her back.

"It made me take a deep breath. I had to turn over because I felt shaky," she says.

"It was the way it was being used; it might not necessarily have been intended to be offensive, but they're using something as comedy which people like me have to live with all the time, which is not a funny thing.

"With the effort some of us are making to change public attitudes, putting it on a programme and letting everyone laugh subconsciously sends the message that it's OK to do that."

While cheap jokes can clearly cause offence to individuals, Andy Rickell, chair of the British Council of Disabled People, says their impact goes a lot further.

"The effect is that people with discriminatory attitudes who are watching have those

by millions of people.

"People who control TV have more power than politicians or decision makers."

The lines become more blurred when comedians claim satire and parody as tools for exposing the stupidity of others. Anti-style icon Ali G is probably the most popular example of this, but his impressions of a "spaz" went too far for Sharon Baker.

She wrote to the Broadcasting Standards Commission to demand they tell her how to explain the routine to her disabled son.

"Whilst his comments... were clearly tongue-in-cheek, this would not necessarily have been recognised by some of the younger disabled population. I had the painful task of explaining to my child what a 'spaz' is. What should I say to him? 'It's you, dear, you're a spaz'?"

Placing such jokes in the hands of a disabled comedian is regarded as more acceptable.

"Comedy can be used to attack disabling barriers in society," says Colin Barnes, from the Centre for Disability Studies at Leeds University.

"It's OK for disabled people to call themselves 'cripple', it's like gay people laughing at themselves; it reinforces a positive sense of self.

"Deciding what to call ourselves is a sign of political strength. It's a shared acceptance of who we are, not a psychological denial."

But the gags – made by non-disabled people – keep coming.

When DN suggested to the BBC that its process of stopping inappropriate humour being broadcast was not working, we were told: "The process is shown to work, as the BBC has investigated the example cited to us, concluded that the words were offensive and should not have been



Joker: Jonathan Ross has made repeated jokes about disabilities, while Flip Den Uil (below) has complained to the BBC

broadcast and have apologised for that broadcast."

The seeming lack of recognition that turning on the television can still amount to letting verbal abuse into your living room has prompted some disabled people to get political.

The Restricted Growth Association (RGA), through Liberal Democrat MP Patsy Calton, launched an early day motion in November condemning the "constant media barrage of thoughtless discrimination, comment and misplaced jokes via the media". It has so far been signed by nearly 90 MPs.

So what do the campaigners want from the media?

"The BBC's code of conduct should be reviewed. They don't make black jokes. We should have exactly the same rights," says Flip Den Uil, a member of RGA's media committee.

Den Uil complained to the BBC after comments made on *Johnny Vaughan Tonight* about "dwarves" and "midgets". Vaughan apologised on the following programme but the word "midget" was not added to the BBC's guidelines for



producers. Rather than leave the matter there, Den Uil appealed to the Governors' Programme Complaints Committee.

Although the committee did not uphold his appeal, the BBC now use the Johnny Vaughan example in their training for programme-makers.

While some campaigners believe change will come through disabled people like Den Uil kicking up a fuss, others, such as Rickell, believe only an act of parliament will stop the bad jokes.

But it is clear from DN's investigations that no-one has offered a real solution to the problem. Until they do, people like Mo Reece will be forced to keep changing the channel.

'It might not have been intended to be offensive, but they're using something as comedy which people like me live with all the time, which is not a funny thing'

who complained to the channels or their regulators, the Independent Television Commission and Broadcasting Standards Commission, range from receiving assurances that producers and stars have been "reminded" of the need for sensitivity and that comments will be removed from repeats, to being told the remarks were not considered generally offensive.

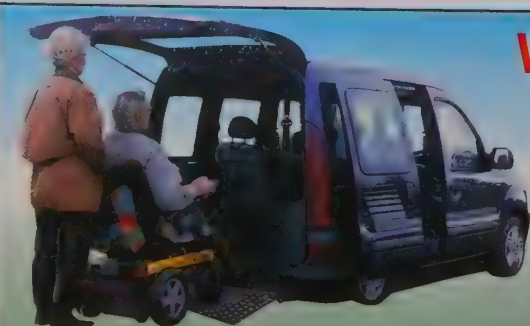
So, do disabled people just need to get a sense of humour?

Mo Reece, who has curvature

attitudes reinforced.

The implication of the "hump" joke is that it's something abnormal, that it's a negative difference, and that implies second-class status.

"It's fairly clear that if this sort of thing was being said by a child in the playground, you'd ask them to stop. Just because it's a different context doesn't mean it should be tolerated. On television, it is at arm's length. It's not abusive to an individual as such, but it's a mass portrayal of discriminatory attitudes, seen



MANUFACTURER APPROVED CONVERSIONS

WHEELCHAIR PASSENGER TRANSPORT NEW, USED AND HIRE

Cars, MPVs and Minibuses

Chairs located in either front or rear of vehicle

call **023 9275 6265** now!

www.atlasconversions.co.uk



Also cars with hand controls for disabled motorists

• Motability

Atlas
CONVERSIONS

Introduction of **INDEPENDENCE™ iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair Revolutionizes Category With New Technology



Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company, has announced the availability of the **INDEPENDENCE™ iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair. The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair operates similarly to a conventional manual wheelchair, but uses proprietary technology to supplement user input power. To the user, the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair feels like a much lighter chair moving over a flat, smooth surface regardless of the terrain. Sensors and microprocessors provide motorized assistance, requiring much less effort from the user than required in a traditional manual wheelchair.

To move with the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair, the user simply pushes the handrims as if propelling a standard manual wheelchair. The patented technology of the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair monitors both the user's input and the resulting motion, determining the appropriate level of additive power to provide a similar feel even when ascending or descending ramps or crossing resistive terrain such as grass or soft carpet. To the casual observer, there is little perceived difference when viewing the contemporarily designed **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair, compared to a regular manual wheelchair. To the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist

Wheelchair user, however, there is a remarkable difference.

Bodies Benefit from Reducing Stress and Strain of "Manual Wheelchair Syndrome"

The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair was developed to assist people with varying forms of mobility disorders ranging from arthritis, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy, paraplegia and tetraplegia, and may relieve and/or reduce the risk of "manual wheelchair syndrome," - repetitive stress injuries, such as rotator cuff and carpal tunnel syndrome, which are common problems among manual wheelchair users. The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair also provides an option for wheelchair users looking to sensibly protect and preserve upper body strength and function for years to come.

Innovative, Lightweight Technology

The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair maintains most of the features of a manual wheelchair while combining advantages currently only available in larger, heavier power wheelchairs. The contemporary design of the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair incorporates an unobtrusive, built-in, under-the-seat



system that provides the user with discreet power assistance. At approximately 55 pounds, the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair was designed for easy transport, with quick-release wheels, battery removal and fold-down seatback.

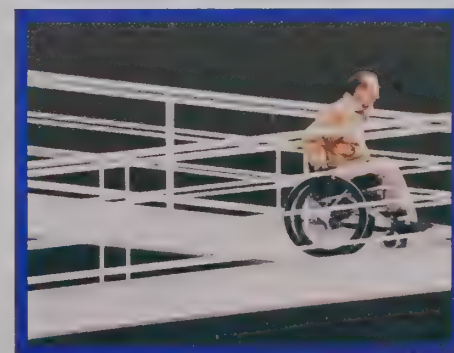
Independence Technology: A Company with a Mission

The company mission is to develop products and technology applications that help people with disabilities live their lives with greater freedom. With this product, Johnson & Johnson extends its tradition of innovative health care service to a community of nearly six million people worldwide who use wheelchairs.

In November, 2002, Independence Technology also received a unanimous recommendation for FDA approval from an expert independent advisory panel assembled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to evaluate data for the company's **INDEPENDENCE™ iBOT™** Mobility System. The **iBOT™** Mobility



System operates on rechargeable battery power and uses a complex system of sensors, gyroscopes and electronics to simulate balance, enabling users to climb and descend stairs, navigate variable terrain, ascend kerbs and elevate, for extended periods, to a "standing" position. The company hopes to introduce the **iBOT™** Mobility System this year.



For additional information about the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair, the **iBOT™** Mobility System and Independence Technology visit:

www.independencenow.com/uk

or www.iglidenow.com/uk

Alternatively freephone 08000 327 326.



Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor
Mary Wilkinson, Disability Now,
6 Market Road, London N7 9PW,
minicom: 020 7619 7332,
fax: 020 7619 7331,
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

Cp know-how 'only part of the story'

In answer to Harold Sharpe (DN June), I am very clear that Scope is "about cerebral palsy". Indeed, our new, web-based publication is called *About Cerebral Palsy* (see www.scope.org.uk).

We need to do a lot more to increase information about cp among staff, Scope members, those who have cp and parents and carers. The cp-focussed information and support we provide is greatly valued and badly needed – but even more needs to be done.

However, we will only be effective in supporting disabled people with cp if we also support people with cp and related impairments. Being experts in cp alone is only part of the story. Many people with cp have other impairments. If we have the skills to support people with related impairments, then this makes us bigger and more effective to help those with cp. Also, if we only focus on a narrow definition of disability, we might not be able to run services that pay their way, particularly at a local level.

We are very effective in campaigning and lobbying government. When we do this with and for people with cp, we are very often putting forward arguments that will benefit other disabled people, too. It does not make sense to say what we want should only be for the benefit of people with cp. And very often, we will be more likely to secure change if we work with others.
Tony Manwaring
Chief executive, Scope
London N7

Teen spirit



by Katie Caryer

Loved by all, from ankle biters up to students who have been studying the effects of alcohol consumption and sleep overdose at university (any course), those long six weeks of fun and sun are kicking off this month.

I don't think any parent in their right mind enjoys their beloved offspring turning their organised world upside-down for a month and half of demands, announcements of boredom more regular than Radio 4 news on the hour, and the over use of computer chips for fighting the population of Mars.

My mum hates this period of the year so much that afterwards she requires a week, or 46, of rest and time to get our house nice and clean (joke: as if our habitat was ever tidy).

Maybe mum was always relied on more than most through this annual period of holiday.

There's a problem with this season of fun for young disabled people and their families. Many disabled people need support to do the things they need or want to and a few of these people have the six weeks away from their educational establishments (and maybe other places). They need to have their support needs met in the summer hols as well as at school.

I know from my experiences and those of others, the responsibility for meeting the extra needs of a disabled person usually falls on the family in summer. This is hard for the poor parents who might have a pack of kids running wild already. But the knackered mum or dad has to push one of the pack's wheelchair to keep up, help guide them around, explain unconventional behaviour to onlookers, interpret into sign language etc. etc, depending on the impairment. And when said pack are not cubs anymore, they won't want to have their old folks hanging out with them.

Improving the Sex Offences Bill

Turning Point, the social care charity, chairs a coalition of voluntary organisations with an interest in the new sexual offences bill, including Voice, Respond, Mencap, BILD and the National Autistic Society.

Simone Aspis (DN, June) states that the best way to deter perpetrators is "to increase the severity of punishment for people found guilty of unconsented sex with anyone, whether they are disabled or not".

We would wholeheartedly agree. Charges of rape and sexual assault should be used wherever possible and the new Bill comes with tougher sentences. However, offences of rape rely on proof of lack of consent and this can be very difficult for some people with a learning disability. This has created a real barrier to prosecution of the most serious offences and leaves cases of abuse unchecked by the law. Specific legislation to protect people with a learning

disability from abuse is needed.

Turning Point also takes issue with Simone's concern that Mencap is proposing a test that all people will have to prove to show consent was informed.

The test of capacity is not to determine whether people can engage in sex but to provide protection for people with severe learning disabilities who have been abused and where prosecution is brought.

Turning Point and others are campaigning on the bill to ensure it maintains the balance between respecting the right of people with learning disabilities to have a sex life and ensuring that they have sufficient protection from abuse.

Richard Kramer
Head of policy, Turning Point
London E1

Last call: DN's travel club has attracted only 200 members. If you don't use it, we'll have to lose it. See pg 43 – Editor

Women with disabilities are right to be sceptical about the sexual offences bill, but none of the people quoted in your feature mention one of the bill's main problems.

Sexual intercourse with a so-called "mental defective" has been a crime at least since 1956, but while preventing many of us from having a sex life, this blanket approach has not protected us from rape. Though Parliament proposes to replace "mental defective" with less shocking words, they would keep us in a separate category, so different judgements continue to be made when the victim has this kind of disability.

We told the sexual offences review that treating us as a lower form of life is an invitation to discrimination and therefore non-prosecution – a major reason why assaults are rife. We know that other groups are affected too: women with Alzheimer's disease and patients in psychiatric hospitals.

Why not abolish the separate disability offences which have never protected us, and include mental disabilities as part of the circumstances that may cancel out consent?

Those of us who are vulnerable in this way may then be given more consideration and protection.
Claire Glasman
WinVisible

Charles Warner
Lincoln 01522 806200 **DAIHATSU**



Charles Warner Are Leading Vehicle Conversion Specialists in Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles and Minibuses. All Designed To Customer Specification. On Any New Or Used Vehicle Of Any Make.



The CHARLES WARNER HIJET conversions offer maximum versatility in this popular compact vehicle and can be tailor-made for every requirement. The HIJET now also comes with 3 years free servicing, warranty and roadside assistance for all round economical motoring.

As one of the country's largest DAIHATSU dealers with our own body conversion workshops, we can supply a quality vehicle nationwide - distance no object. Prices from as little as £7995 with VAT & road tax exemption.

www.charleswarnermobility.co.uk
www.charleswarnerconversions.co.uk

PC pulse

by Dan Batten

Pregnant pause...for thought



The *Daily Express* made its opinion on the worth of disabled people known when reporting the "agony" of mum-to-be Bethany Davies. Having discovered that her unborn twins were "probably suffering from Down's Syndrome and...spina bifida", the story goes on to tell the story of two babies "born so perfect and healthy" that have "grown into any mother's pride and joy"

after a hospital misdiagnosis. Does this mean my mum should have been thoroughly ashamed of me and packed me off to the orphanage as soon as she knew I wasn't "perfect" then, Express?

Make no bones about it

A South African witch doctor has fallen foul of the law after he was found digging up bones from graves. The witch doctor claims he was using the bones, as part of the natural medicine practice Muti, to make potions he claims can treat mental illness and minor ailments. I hope Blair isn't contemplating this as an NHS money saving idea.

Ensuring three's not a crowd



If you're going on holiday with the kids, then get ready to fill in a mountain of forms, says *DN* columnist Tanni Grey-Thompson

I have a long-standing joke that if I were to change sports, I would pick one with less equipment to cart around. The sport at the top of my list is swimming because all you need is a towel, costume, and a pair of goggles.

When my husband and I decided to go on a training holiday – complete with racing chairs and our small, noisy child, Carys – we also had to make some tough decisions about taking all the paraphernalia a child needs.

In the end, we went for the minimalist approach. We hired a car seat, managed without a pram, and bought disposable bottles and pre-made milk.

We chose Florida over Europe for a simple reason: I am way beyond battling with inaccessible toilets and ramps you need crampons to ascend. However tough the flight, we knew it would be OK when we

got to the States because of the American attitude to disability.

Patience is required in large amounts, as is the ability to fill out lots of forms. But the really difficult part is that once you've told hotels, plane operators and so forth about your "needs", those "needs" don't always end up in the computer.

We had some difficulty at the airport, as the plane seats we booked as parents were not seats for disabled people – apparently, there are still a few companies out there who don't yet recognise that you can be both a parent and disabled.

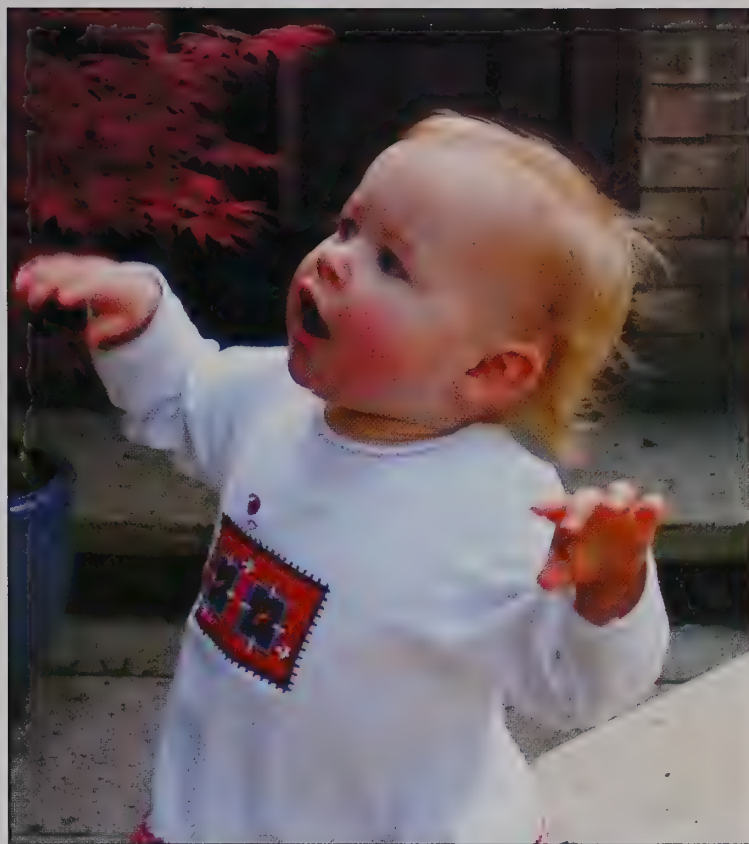
Arriving early for check-in meant that Carys wasn't irritated by long queues, although she was less-than-happy with being woken at 4am. It also meant that we had plenty of time for toilet, food, and nappy stops prior to take off – for all of us!

I realised it would be almost impossible for me to travel as a single parent with Carys until she is years older, because airline staff are limited in the help they can give – there are quite strict rules. Sometimes you really do need to be able to stand up or be just a little mobile to make life easier.

In Florida, we decided to take a trip to Disney World. Carys was more impressed with a balloon we bought her, but staff training at Disney is so good – you can get all the help you want.

Ian finds it hard to walk long distances and he took the bold step (for him) of hiring a scooter – a fantastic idea, as we shared carrying Carys, covered more ground and were the same height – not bad for approximately £30 for the day.

Travelling as two disabled parents is not easy, but it is manageable if you plan ahead



Go baby: Carys can be sure to make a lot of noise on vacation

and don't mind answering lots of questions that you've already answered on previous forms. But that is just a bit like daily life, isn't it?

I have two pieces of advice for anyone in a similar situation: go

on holiday with family or friends who can help out, and teach your child to wave and blow kisses (good luck teaching them to do this). This encourages people to help more than any form filling.



How safe are you! When travelling in your wheelchair

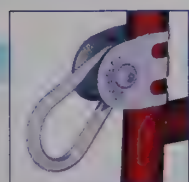
Who decides where the restraint system is attached to your wheelchair?

The New Hooki range of fittings from Brotherwood could be the answer.

- No welding or special tools are needed to fit the Brotherwood Hooki.
- Light and strong, made in stainless steel for fit-and-forget applications.
- The Hooki will fit 90% of tubular framed wheelchairs.

www.hooki.co.uk www.brotherwood-hooki.com

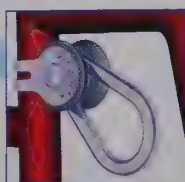
Make sure you are secured as safely as possible when travelling



Type 'A'



Type 'B'



Type 'C'

The Brotherwood Hooki fittings offer:

SAFE, INSTANTLY RECOGNISABLE ATTACHMENT POINTS

for wheelchair restraint systems, using four anchor points

Brotherwood - Hooki Lambert House, Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6QP
Hooki order/help line - Tel: 01935 873737 • Fax: 01935 873040 • E.mail: sales@hooki.co.uk



Hooki



In it for the long haul

Frances Hasler has been a long-term campaigner for direct payments for disabled people. Despite the occasional struggle, it takes a lot to keep her down. Nuala Calvi investigates

Frances Hasler caused something of a scandal last year when an unfinished draft of a paper she was writing about disabled people's umbrella body, the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP), was accidentally sent to its chief executive. Although the subject of the paper – making the BCODP's National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) a separate organisation – was being debated within the organisation at the time, it led to Hasler being sacked and her committee suspended. Ironically, the sacking was followed by an overwhelming vote by BCODP members to set NCIL free. And when the new, independent charity's board looked for a chief executive this

Hasler a certain perspective. "People can get distracted by fighting against each other rather than what they should be fighting against, and I think that's what happened in BCODP for a time," she says. "It's an occupational hazard of working in the voluntary sector."

There can be no doubt, though, that Hasler is the woman for the job. She is seen as something of a national expert on direct payments. The achievement, in 1996, of the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act, was thanks in no small part to the work of Hasler and others on BCODP's independent living committee, which commissioned the influential 1994 report, *Cashing in on our Independence*, persuading the government of

'People can get distracted by fighting against each other rather than what they should be fighting against'

year, it was Hasler they decided was the best candidate. Although "hard words" were exchanged at the time, a year's break doing research for the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), and achieving an out-of-court settlement of her unfair dismissal claim, has given

the case for direct payments. As part of the lobbying team following the bill through parliament, Hasler met fellow campaigners every night "to plot our next move", while keeping her day-job as chief executive of Greater London Action on Disability.

Once the legislation was passed, Hasler and fellow campaigner Jane Campbell (now chair of SCIE) helped draft a funding application to the Department of Health to set up a central advice body, which would become NCIL. "We sat there thinking, 'this is going to be a really good job for someone... Jane came up with the idea we could job-share the chairmanship, so neither had to watch the other go for it,'" laughs Hasler. The following five years were "astonishingly busy". Surprisingly, she spent much of her time convincing not just local authorities, but other disability organisations, of the merits of direct payments. "[The big charities] were more into campaigning on anti-discrimination than independent living. Charities need to help their members realise how direct payments may well meet their needs much better."

Hasler's conviction on this point stems from her student days at Sussex University, where one of her closest friends was a wheelchair-user. Hasler saw the struggle she had when leaving university in 1979 to "first find a house, and then a way to live there". It was only solved when disability campaigners Ken and Maggie Davis introduced her to Grove Road, a pioneering tenants' collective which made independent living possible through collaboration between disabled and non-disabled people living together in purpose-designed flats. Ken was a member of the Union of the Physically



Time out: Hasler at home in Sussex with her cat, Tigger

Impaired Against Segregation, and a "guru" of the disability movement, who, along with Hasler and others, helped found BCODP. "They were an organisation of politically aware disabled people trying to change the world. In those days, you relied on family, district nurses and home help services. But if this minimum level of service wasn't enough, you were expected to live in residential care."

Hasler's interest in "the bigger picture" sparked a move from her job as a community health administrator to that of welfare/development officer for the Spinal Injuries Association. But it was her own experience of epilepsy which convinced her to stay in campaigning. "I realised that while my friend was paralysed and I had epilepsy, there were echoes in our experiences. I can never be a bus driver, whereas my friend can't even get on the bus. It may be more in-your-face, but they're both discrimination."

Emphasising the issues common to different groups is something Hasler is keen to do through the new NCIL. In particular, she hopes to extend direct payments to those so far under-represented, and newly-involved groups. Other new challenges include the duty for all local authorities to offer direct payments as an option for social care. "The reason I wanted to go back is it's an opportunity to contribute to a new phase. The government is putting more importance on direct payments than ever before."

But Hasler admits it's a "scary" time for NCIL, which has been operating with two administration staff for the last year, and has to rebuild almost from scratch. But her commitment to the cause is as strong as ever. "Having independent living alters people's entire sense of what they can achieve. Direct payments are a very effective tool for achieving independent living. But they only work if there are adequate support schemes to back them up, which is absolutely core to what NCIL is there to make sure happens."

CAN YOUR POWERCHAIR DO THIS?

Experience the amazing Balder Finesse soon. Models to suit all ages. Variety of seating systems fitted

Call Today
01256 767181

Unit 24, Murrell Green Business Park
London Road, Hook RG27 9GR
Fax: 01256 768887

BAIDER



CYCLONE

Do YOU want to work with one of the Worlds leading lightweight wheelchair manufacturers ?

We require sales agents in all parts of the UK

Do YOU know people requiring the type of equipment we sell ?

We pay commission on referral leads

Do you speak foreign languages or have contacts overseas ?

We are looking to export and pay for agent introduction for three years

Telephone Now 0700 CYCLONE (0700 2925663)

www.cyclonemobility.com

Cyclone Mobility and Fitness are one of the leading Aluminium and Titanium ultralight wheelchair manufacturers. They are also suppliers of fitness and therapy equipment for wheelchair users. We are looking to expand our coverage and want enthusiastic and energetic wheelchair users to join our team of representatives both in the UK and overseas. If you think you are that person then contact Stuart Dunne at Cyclone. Unit 5 Apex Court, Croft Business Park, Bassendale Road Bromborough, CH62 3RE

Main Sponsors of XDM
www.xdm.org.uk

I am interested in:-

Working with Cyclone ☐

Agency Referrals ☐

My Disability is ☐

and level of disability is ☐

I would like further information on:-

Passive Exercise Machines ☐

Wheelchairs for Everyday ☐

Wheelchairs for Sport ☐

Handcycling ☐

Off Road Vehicles ☐

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW!

Name

Address

Tel No.

- Ultralight
- Sports Wheelchairs
- Elite Performance
- Everyday Wheelchairs
- Bespoke Design
- Cutting Edge Technology
- Titanium 3-2.5
- Aluminium 7020



JUBILEE Automotive Group Ltd

Best designs : Best engineered : Best prices : Best choice

Drive from Wheelchair

Total independence is no longer just a dream.

Suzuki Life has arrived and it is set to revolutionize the life-style opportunities for wheelchair users all over the UK.

- * Fully automated wheelchair access and lock down.
- * Looks and drives just like any other compact motor car.
- * Ease of access for both manual or electric wheelchair users.
- * Additional seating along side the driver & also in the rear.
- * No special wheelchairs needed; drive directly from your own.

Suzuki

Life

Motability

Wheelchair Accessible MPV's

Seat Alhambra Liberty

We believe that they are probably the best engineered and certainly the most stylish wheelchair accessible MPV's on offer in the UK today.

They are equipped with our superbly finished, state of the art drop floor conversion and fold out ramp system providing elegant transportation for up to 6 passengers and are available with automatic transmission.

£19,795

Motability

They're great for transporting scooters too

Wheelchair Accessible Cars

Vauxhall Agila & Suzuki Wagon R

Full wheelchair access in a compact modern motor car. YES

£9,995

Our revolutionary 'Liberty' versions of these popular high roof cars are totally unique in combining super easy wheelchair access, low cost affordability & small car practicality with optional automatic gearbox if required. As usual at Jubilee, our adaptations are beautifully engineered to complement the stylish image of these amazing vehicles.

Motability

They're great for transporting scooters too

Wheelchair Accessible MPV's

Mercedes Benz Vaneo Liberty

With almost 60 inches of head room for the wheelchair occupant our latest addition to the 'Liberty' range is set to be a real winner.

£17,995

It's a proper, luxury MPV adapted by us to complement it's refined image and Mercedes Benz heritage but offered at a truly affordable price with factory options for a fully automatic gearbox or diesel engine.

Motability

They're great for transporting scooters too

Wheelchair Accessible & Wheelchair Driver MPV's

Mercedes Benz V-Class

The ultimate in either wheelchair accessible or wheelchair driver solutions, our most comprehensive range of Mercedes Benz V-Class luxury MPV's is renowned as the UK's most prestigious and versatile mobility vehicle.

From simple ramp access right up to fully automated wheelchair driver adaptations, our V-Class stands alone as the market leader for those who require truly dignified wheelchair transportation without the need to compromise.

Available with 'Along side the driver' wheelchair passenger.

£20,995

www.

jubileeauto.co.uk

and all of our vehicles are available on our low or even No Deposit Mobility Finance plans
brochures : home demonstrations : test drives

0121 502 2252

out of hours

078 121 00059

Jubilee Automotive Group Ltd, Woden Road, South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0N : Mon -Fri 9 am to 6 pm : Saturday 9 am to 2 pm

USED MOBILITY VEHICLES

02	Renault Kangoo 1.4 automatic	£12,995
V	Toyota Hi Ace ramp & winch	£10,995
W	Renault Kangoo 1.2 low floor	£9,995
R	VW automatic. Wheelchair driver	£11,995
V	Toyota Hi Ace 4 seats + ramp	£10,995
X	VW Transporter diesel, Lux spec	£12,995
V	Peugeot Expert diesel low floor	£10,995
51	Toyota Hi Ace diesel + winch	£13,995
51	VW Transporter diesel automatic	£15,995
02	Renault Master diesel 2,000 miles	£15,995
V	Toyota Hi Ace lift & lowering susp.	£12,995
W	Fiat Ulysse MPV drop floor & ramp	£11,995
V	Mercedes V Class Ambiente	£17,995
Y	Nissan Vanette diesel	£10,995
02	VW Transporter 6,000 miles	£13,995
V	Toyota Hi Ace Metallic silver	£11,995



Please feel free to give us a call for further information on any of our superb pre-owned, mobility vehicles or for a finance quotation or part exchange estimate

STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS

Drive from wheelchair for less than £13,000 ?



YES

QUOVIS

**CALL NOW
FOR DETAILS**

vexel



Fourth gear fun for all:



On the road: Helen tries out the Nippi 50 scooter (above), and finds the Ford Focus C-MAX (below) has room to transport all sorts of equipment, including powerchairs.



London Recumbents

www.londonrecumbents.co.uk

recumbents@aol.com



Rangers Yard
Dulwich Park
London
SE21 7BQ
020 8299 6636

A complete range of cycles for people with special needs

It's not all cars, cars, cars at the Mobility Roadshow, as Helen Smith found out on a tiring – but highly informative – day at sunny Donington

If, like me, you thought the Mobility Roadshow was only about cars, wheelchairs and mobility aids, you were wrong. From beds to boats and dogs to doughnuts, the show had it all. I visited the three-day roadshow on Friday, the 13th of June, but luck was certainly on the side of the organisers with the weather – there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

There were plenty of volunteers to greet visitors, handing out maps to help you find everything. With exhibition space at full capacity, I found it essential to have the map.

The first exhibit to catch my eye was the Wearable Clothing stand. I've always been a bit dismissive of clothes aimed at wheelchair users. I thought they would be, well, fogey and frumpy – not my kind of thing. However, the array of fleecy ponchos, cargo pants and wrap-over denim skirts changed my view. www.wearableclothing.com
Tel: 0141 774 9000

Among the inside exhibitors, supermarket chain ASDA showed off their spinning basket. It attaches to the front of most wheelchairs, making it easier to unload and load goods. One visitor was delighted to find it even fitted to her power chair – she had never been able to use a wheelchair trolley before. www.asda.com

A large number of sports and leisure organisations were there. Aviation for Paraplegics and Tetraplegics told me how they make flying possible for people with many disabilities. They even reckon I'd be able to get my licence for £4,000 – obviously, they haven't seen me drive. Having been awarded a lottery grant this year, the flying school now has a scholarship scheme. Tel: 01722 410744, www.av-para-tetra.demon.co.uk

Challenger Class Association brought along some Trimaran boats designed for disabled sailors. It may have been parked on concrete at the roadshow, but I was told that these boats are virtually uncapsizable. They have sailing groups all over the UK and a full regatta circuit for those who want to race. Tel: 01480 468821, marcia@carpenterhouse.fsnet.co.uk

Unique Sport were busy

demonstrating their adaptive exercise systems – the Aero trak (£746), which is like a running machine for wheelchairs, and the Aero-ski (£546), which simulates skiing in motion. I also tried out the wheelchair workout, which consists in attaching a number of stretchy elastics to your wheelchair to exercise different muscles. Tel: 01434 220497, www.uniquesport.com

After all this effort, I was pleased to try out a comfy chair from the Camelot Collection. These chairs can recline to sleeping position and are all named after characters in Arthurian legend. I think it was Guinevere who came to my rescue, as someone else was sitting on Lancelot. Tel: 0114 282 3353, camelotfurniture@aol.com

One of the major activities of the European Year of Disabled people (EYDP) 2003 is a campaign bus, which is touring

driven from your wheelchair. £4,850, www.nippi.co.uk

Another new car out this year is Volkswagen's Touran. This car is slightly higher than a normal car which makes getting out much easier. It also comes with five seats as standard, so there was no problem fitting my shopping. Tel: 0800 333 666, www.volkswagen.co.uk

Also making its debut appearance was the Ford Focus C-MAX. As someone looking to replace their Motability car at the end of the year, I was interested to hear this car will be joining the scheme. For me, size is important – I have to transport a powerchair and there was plenty of room in the back of this car. Tel: 0800 240 241, www.fordmagic.co.uk

Getting out of a car can be pretty tricky for many people but Mangar International seem to have come up with a solution. They've designed the

'Also making its debut appearance was the Ford Focus C-MAX. As someone who is looking to replace their mobility car at the end of the year I was interested to hear this car will be joining the scheme'

Europe. It set off from Greece in January and is currently spending a month in the UK. Many people haven't heard much about the EYDP bus, but there was no avoiding it at the roadshow. A hearing impaired choir signed their way through a number of popular songs. For further information on the bus route and other UK venues to be visited, go to www.disability.gov.uk

Europe's first standard car that can be driven from a wheelchair made its debut appearance at the road show. The Vexel Quovis enables you to drive from your wheelchair without special conversions. I like the idea of being able to buy a car that's already adapted, but there wasn't enough room for my shopping, let alone a passenger. The name Quovis derives from the Latin "Wherever you want to be", but with a top speed of 45mph it might take a long time to get there. On the road from £13,000. Tel: 0121 502 2252, www.jubileeauro.co.uk

A cheaper, albeit windier, alternative to the Quovis is the Nippi 50 scooter, which can be

Mangar Get-U-Out, a device to help you out of your vehicle. It can also be transported to get-u-out of other peoples' cars as well. Tel: 01544 267674, www.mangar.co.uk

If you're a bit fed up with the look of your wheelchair and want to jazz it up for the summer, Biz-spoke have the answer. They've manufactured a spoke guard for all types of self-propelled wheelchairs that can be printed with any design you fancy – "within reason" they told me. Tel: 01268 764886, www.biz-spoke.com

With so many great new products on offer, I was drawn to the Keep Able stand. They gave me an opportunity to buy all of them. All I had to do was pull a letter K or A out of a hat to receive the chance to win a million pounds. I didn't win, but they were keen to tell me about their new wheelchair assessment service to make sure people buy the right wheelchair instead of the first one that catches their eye. Keep Able also lent out wheelchairs to people at the show. Tel: 01384 484544, www.keepable.co.uk

One product not on sale yet

The Mobility Roadshow

was the Aida walking aid. Unlike a conventional walking frame, it can be used as a scooter, looks stylish and folds easily. This was just one of the items on display from graduating students at the Royal College of Art. It's hoped that some of their designs will be turned into marketed products. Tel: 00 7590 4242, www.hhrc.rea.ac.uk

Before going to the roadshow, I saw and heard a few things in the media about a miniature guide pony called Rosie. She was even on BBC1's *Have I Got News for You*. Rosie was either too small for me to see, or she was unable to make it – somehow I think the latter is the case. Let's hope she can come next year, as I'll certainly be going again.



Let's get this show on the road!: (clockwise from top left) Helen tries her hand at the Trimaran boats and checks out the Vexel Quovis; DN reporter Lucy Glynn entertains the public; ASDA spinning basket attaches to wheelchairs; the student-designed Aida walking aid, and a chorus signs tunes at the EYDP bus tour.



GM Coachwork Ltd



FIAT MONTANA

2.0 JTD turbo diesel, 4 seats and wheelchair access, full low floor conversion, lightweight ramp, power steering, air conditioning, 59" passenger headroom.



FREEDOM

INDEPENDENCE

COMFORT

AFFORDABILITY

QUALITY

Just some of the benefits of a vehicle from GM Coachworks Ltd.



FIAT ASPEN

Choice of petrol, diesel or turbo diesel, low floor conversion, 54" passenger headroom, lightweight ramp, 4 doors plus tailgate, power steering. High roof version also available

THE SOUTH WEST'S BEST COLLECTION OF QUALITY USED CARS

Renault Kangoo, 1.4 petrol, X reg, September 2000, 2400 miles, metallic grey, automatic, lowered floor plus ramp, one rear seat. £11,850.

Renault Kangoo, 1.2 petrol, February 2000, 35,000 miles, blue, lowered floor plus ramp, electric winch. £7,750.

Citroen Dispatch, 1.9 diesel, 02 reg, April 2000, 1700 miles, red, lowered floor plus ramp, one rear seat. £13,500.

Volkswagen Caravelle, 2.5 litre TDI, V reg, January 2000, white, 20,000 miles, automatic, air conditioning plus ramp or lift. POA.

Stock changing weekly please phone for details.

Ring 01626 853050

www.gmcoachwork.co.uk

GM Coachwork Ltd, Teign Valley Trusham, Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 ONX



ACCESSIBLE SHARAN

ACCESSIBLE

DOBLO**MONT BLANC**

**MORE POWER
LESS COST**

**NEW****130 BHP TDI**

S L Model

£ 20,550**2.0 ltr Petrol**

S L Model

£18,950

Full manufacturer's model range
available except 4x4 Sharan.
Prices shown include delivery,
Free Home Trial, exclude VAT &
Road Tax.

• Motability

**NO DEPOSIT****£ 49.50**

Cash Price 1.2 SX Model

£ 10,500

PER WEEK

1.2 SX Model

**ACCESSIBLE DOBLO**

LOWERED FLOOR

**NO DEPOSIT**FROM **£ 48.00** PER WEEK

1.2 SX Model

CASH PRICE 1.2 SX MODEL

£ 9,999

**All models have fully tested
passenger & wheelchair restraints
with remote winch standard
on Mont Blanc variant.**

**ACCESSIBLE PREVIA****G S Petrol £ 23,500****G S Diesel £ 24,775****LEASE****HIRE****PURCHASE**

CALL OUR NATIONAL TEAM ON

0191 2260099 FAX 0191 2721313**AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**

'I felt compelled to join their fight'

Respite care has been a life-saver for Gail Hanrahan, whose son, Guy, needs round-the-clock support. But budget cuts mean she has to fight again for the services she so desperately needs

When my son Guy was diagnosed with the rare chromosome disorder Angelman syndrome in 1991, we thought the hardest battle would be coming to terms with his disability and finding information about it.

I worried about many things then. I worried about his future and ours. But the one thing I wasn't prepared for was the ongoing battle for services day-in, day-out, just in order to survive.

I assumed, in my naivety, that the help we needed would automatically be there. But I was wrong.

In order to cope, I learnt very quickly to focus on the positive aspects of life. The fact that Guy has a wonderful disposition and is full of fun has always made that easier.

Guy is now 13 years old, but he has the cognitive ability and the emotional mentality of a two-year-old. He has the strength and reach of a teenager, but the common sense of a toddler.

He has no sense of danger and can never be left for a minute without us knowing where he is and what he is up to. He needs us for all his personal care; he can't wash, dress or feed himself without help or supervision and he is doubly incontinent.

He has frequent sleepless nights and can't do anything without support.

He is unable to talk and communicates only by gesture.

He has scoliosis (curvature of the spine), which will require surgery and he is also unable to walk very far because he has to wear splints on his legs and feet, which will need surgery too.

Respite has been the key to our survival as a family. It wouldn't have mattered how good his school was, how sympathetic our GP had been or how beneficial the therapies we received had been: if we hadn't had a break from caring he wouldn't be here – he would be in residential schooling instead. Even as recently as 1995, you had to shout loudly – until you reached breaking point – before you got respite.

Having to ring a social worker and admit I wasn't

copied when Guy was five was the hardest thing for me.

I had reached the point where I felt I couldn't cope any more. It was the most painful place I have ever been – more painful even than the diagnosis, which I hadn't thought would be possible.

After years of no sleep, we were broken and exhausted. I actually asked social services to take Guy away. Imagine feeling so broken that you want a stranger to take your child away.

We now get regular breaks from caring which allows us to function somewhere near normal for a short time each month. It allows us to do the everyday things that others take for granted, like leaving the kitchen door unlocked, relaxing with a newspaper or visiting a friend. At the same time, it allows Guy the opportunity to gain some independence from us, like other teenagers.

In March last year, I became involved with a group of parents campaigning against cuts to children's disability services in Oxfordshire. My



"We will never accept that we are not entitled to some help": Mum Gail with Guy

own care package wasn't threatened then, but in knowing the value of respite care, I felt compelled to join their fight.

That fight has now become my own as the centre Guy attends is due to close. I have heard many parents' stories over the last year – families as desperate as I was eight years ago are not getting the help they need. Care is being rationed and centres which offer respite care are being closed.

In 1997 we had six centres which offered short-term breaks. After this round of cuts

we will have just two.

Thresholds are so high that only those with the very highest level of need will receive anything.

Meanwhile, no-one seems to be accountable. Local government blames central government and visa versa. In the middle are children like Guy and families like ours, ordinary families with extraordinary needs.

We remain largely invisible and ignored by the decision-makers. It is this which impacts on my son's life and ours more

than anything.

We have learnt to accept Guy's impairments, and to love and value him on his terms, but we will never accept that our family and others like us are not entitled to some help – help based on need, not budgets.

It is these budgets which restrict and disable Guy and us, his family, more than his impairments ever could. Further information about the campaign group Friends of Oxfordshire Respite Centres (FORCe) can be found at www.forcecampaign.org

BE MORE INDEPENDENT

Drive your own vehicle from the comfort of your own Powerchair



CONSIDER ONLY THE VERY BEST!

Drive or be a passenger in your own vehicle from this affordable crash-tested 'Drive From/Everyday Use Indoor/Outdoor Powerchair'.

Be comfortably seated at your desk or table with adjustable height seating.

Swing-a-way adjustable legrests supplied as standard.

Lightest Powerchair of its type. Other options available.

AdaptaChair

THE COMPLETE WHEELCHAIR SOLUTION

For further information on the AdaptaChair range of products call

01769 - 573197

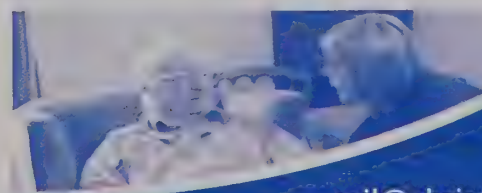
or visit our website: www.adaptachair.co.uk e-mail: sales@adaptachair.co.uk

Christies Care

Living Independently at Home

We are experts in providing Living-In Care for people who want to stay in their own home and need help to do so.

We visit to assess your needs and work with you to provide the right care arrangement for you. We have well trained staff, often available at short notice. We give continuity of care. Enjoy peace of mind and security with our staff.



mail@christiescare.com
www.christiescare.com

01728 605000

DN experts report back from this year's Naidex exhibition in Birmingham

What's new at Naidex

Sue Clements found that "intelligence" was the buzz word for mobility equipment

Spring Naidex 2003 saw the return of several companies who have not exhibited for a while and several new players in the field. It seemed very busy at times, which made it difficult to try products. A test area would have helped.

A visitor from near Bath, who had not been for many years, was excited by the range of choice, but aghast at some of the prices.



Advances in technology were revealed in the "intelligence" of many exhibits.

Independence Technology featured the iGLIDE (£4,500), a manual assist wheelchair. It moves at the slightest touch of the propelling rim and the workings are well concealed in the wheel hub. It travels easily up and down slopes and over changes in terrain. An observer was very impressed with the chair, as it would give him much better control when coming down slopes.

Another Independence Technology product was the iBOT chair (*not yet priced, left*), a standing and stair climbing power chair with a cluster of three wheels on each side. Users can elevate themselves to make eye contact with people around them. The chair can also shift its position slightly backwards and forwards while standing to help maintain its balance. It will be available commercially in the next few months. Tel: 0800 587 3719,

www.independencenow.com

The Segway Human Transporter is an "intelligent" mobility platform with two

large wheels and controls on a handlebar. It is capable of moving at speeds of up to 12mph forwards and backwards when weight is transferred through the front and back of the foot. All this is done whilst standing on the platform! Some people found it easier to manage than others. £4,695, from Planet Segway, tel: 07000 246810, www.planetsegway.co.uk

The Scalamobil IQ is a new model mobile stairclimber which can take a wheelchair and its occupant upstairs and down. Its IQ means that it can be programmed to remember the dimensions of the stairs and therefore make the job easier. £3,900, from Simorg, tel: 01582 484785.

Sunrise Medical introduced the Microlite family of scooters. They are bright, neat and compact, which might compromise legroom for a larger person. They are also easier to dismantle and the batteries fit neatly behind the seat. Still a weight for transportation, though. £1,175-£1,375, tel: 01384 446622,

www.sunrisemedical.co.uk

Electric Mobility are also retailing an Ultralite range of scooters (£1,395 for rear-wheel drive, £1,195 for front-wheel drive). Also new was a powered folding scooter (the AutoGo 550, £1,895). Once folded, it can be motored around in this position, which would make it easier to get up a ramp into an estate car. Other kit can also be bought so that the folded scooter can be transported at the back of the car. Tel: 01460 258100,

www.electricmobility.co.uk

Karma Mobility showed the Dove, a very lightweight, competitively priced, folding transit chair. They are easy to stow in small spaces such as a car boot, or even wardrobes! £330, tel: 0121 486 3434, www.karmamobility.co.uk



Sam is a happy, delightful & responsive baby who urgently needs a loving adoptive family? Could you love & care for him?



Sam is a 4-month-old baby who has Downs Syndrome and was relinquished at birth by his mother. Sam is doing everything that you would expect any baby of his age to be doing and is reaching all his milestones despite him being 7 weeks premature. He is starting to smile and 'coo' in response to being spoken to.

Sam is developing really well and his recent medical was very positive. He has two small holes in his heart that are not causing any problems and it is hoped that they will correct themselves without the need of surgery. Sam will need ongoing support from physiotherapy and speech and language therapy plus annual reviews at a downs syndrome clinic.

To find out more about becoming the adoptive family that Sam needs contact Janice Lingwood

Tel: 020 8770 4477

London Borough of Sutton Adoption & Fostering Service



Anita Stack was impressed by two new products at the KideQuip exhibition

This year, I went round Naidex KideQuip with occupational therapist Alanna Bevan and parent Karen Langshaw, who has great difficulty finding comfortable equipment for her young son. Two new products stood out.

The Leckey standing frame (*right*) can position a child in prone or supine position. This is a fantastic development and reflects Leckey's ability to react to the needs of therapists and children. From my own experience in working with very complex children, I know there is a need for a stand that

can support a child in supine standing. A child may

have poor head control or need to be introduced to weight bearing very slowly.

The supine facility has maximum support and full tilting ability, allowing graduation of standing angle. And while the manual handling and positioning difficulties of some children can make standing an ordeal for parents, the supine stand allows the child to be positioned as they lie using an ordinary sling. The child can then be brought into standing comfortably and slowly by gradually increasing the angle of the stand.

So, well done, James Leckey Design, for their Horizon Stander, a product not many companies provide. At £1,600-1,650, the cost is reasonable, too. Tel: 028 9060 2277 www.leckey.com

The other new product, the AKKA by Quest 88 (*left*), is an electronic mobility device that allows children with severe disabilities to explore the environment. I particularly liked its adaptability: the platform can accommodate a chair or a





Comfort in a wheelchair can be greatly improved by suspension. Cyclone showed their new Air Chair, which has shock absorbers under the seat (*below, left*). They can be adjusted to suit individual needs and make a great difference. Tel: 0151 346 2310, www.cyclone-mf.co.uk/

JCM have a seating system, the Triton (*above*), which can be moved from different bases, including the three wheeled ranger base or a five star office base, that offers well supported seating in a range of situations. Around £900 for a seat and base, tel: 01775 766664, www.jcmseating.co.uk

For people wishing to sell second-hand equipment, there is a new website: www.mobilitymarket.co.uk

In the mobility sector, there were plenty of interesting new products to look at. Time will tell how much they are used and for what purposes. Sue Clements is senior advisor at the Disabled Living Foundation.

standing frame. Using the AKKA can be a child's first step to independent driving and can encourage cause and effect and the use of switches in a fun way. £3,600 -£4,000, www.quest88.com

Anita Stack is superintendent physiotherapist at Craig-y-Parc school. She welcomes comments and ideas from parents or therapists who use supine standing equipment annita.stack@dtm.ntl.com



Mary Queally found many things to mention – if only they were priced and ready to buy

This year's Naidex & KideQuip exhibition got off to a busy start, with the familiar mix of exhibitor stands, talks and demonstrations over three days. But it was frustrating that many new products were not available to buy until some time after the show and, in some cases, final prices had not been set. Hopefully, next year's products will be new and available.

JMC Seating Solutions displayed a bed positioning system which can be used at home. It consists of a plastic base covered in a padded top, placed over an existing mattress. Clips along the sides of the base can be adjusted to provide individualised postural support, including supine, prone and side lying. Depending on the components, the price guide is £700-£800. Tel: 01775 766664, www.jcmseating.co.uk

Many exhibitors showed equipment designed for larger users, including Gordon Rehab Manufacturing. They demonstrated their bespoke Walton 40/60 chairs, with a maximum capacity of 40 or 60 stones (290 or 380kg) respectively (*below*). These riser/recliner chairs have braked castors, integral footrests as standard and a choice of upholstery. Prices vary, but a guide of £4,000 was given for a standard 60 chair. Tel: 01733 243933, www.gordonrehab.com

Keep Able, long known for their retail outlets and mail order catalogue, have expanded their services and will soon launch their own web shop. With over 1,000 products, it will allow shoppers to store items

they purchase frequently – such as continence products – similar to supermarket sites. A nice feature will be the ability to book home demonstrations via the net. Tel: 08705 202122, www.keepable.co.uk

There was a new Charities and Associations Trail, highlighting a range of national and local disability groups. The Ability People were there as a new national charity, with Tony Blair as patron. Working with regional government agencies and disability groups they produce a website giving information on local and national disability matters. Future plans include a television show on Sky TV and a shopping channel, Shopability. Tel: 0191 516 6849, www.tapuk.org.uk



Digital radios have been heavily marketed recently, with emphasis on the quality of reception. The Evoke 1 & 2 at the show also revealed another advantage – ease of use. Evoke 1 (*above*) is a mains-operated mono version, £99.99. The Evoke 2 is a mains or battery stereo version which also picks up FM stations, £169.99. Both automatically tune to the range of digital stations with a small, front-mounted knob that clicks positively when tuned. Direct2Home supply these, as well as a battery operated pocket version at £179.99. Tel: 0800 783 4069,



www.direct2home.co.uk

Chiltern Invadex launched their TransAqua stainless steel shower chair range (*right*). My initial impression was that it had a clinical look. However, the versatility of the chair was impressive, with a choice between two seat widths, self propelled or attendant propelled models, and flat, horseshoe or toilet shaped seats. Armrests and footrests swing away for easier access. The self-propelled model is available with a range of rear wheel sizes and all components are interchangeable if a user's needs change over time. A price guide of £320 was given. Tel: 01869 246470, www.chilterninvadex.co.uk

The Deskmatic, from Harbourne Ergonomic products, is a stylish, height-adjustable workstation, in floor fixed or moveable versions. The powered 300mm height adjustment makes it versatile and wheelchair accessible. With a capacity of 70kg and a range of colours, it costs £799. Tel: 01626 332750, www.harbournedesign.com

Applied Energy Products, partnered by the RNIB, have developed the Redring Selectronic electric shower. Its inclusive design has a temperature lock, clear push button controls with audible feedback and tactile buttons on an anti-glare backing. £285, tel: 01733 456789, www.applied-energy.com



Finally, Buckingham Healthcare launched a clever new product – a plastic Walking Frame Caddy (*below*), which clips onto the top of most Rollators. Designed by a healthcare professional, it provides a stable tray and pannier for carrying everyday objects, leaving both hands free to use the frame. £32, but should come down as production increases. Tel: 023 92 790 977, www.buckinghamhealthcare.co.uk Mary Queally is a Head III OT.



Kids are going to love our new range of mobility products

Kimba Spring

- New dynamic frame with suspension
- Reduced jolting to the child
- Multifunctional reversible seating system
- Ultra lightweight design

Kimba Cross

- One frame fits both seat sizes
- Large wheels for handling rough terrain
- Optional cycle trailer package
- Height adjustable push handle and hub brake optional

Kimba Spring Tri-Style

- Three wheeled stylish lightweight travel system
- New dynamic frame with suspension, reduces jolting
- Easy to fold and/or disassemble
- Multifunctional seating system

Robby

- A multiple adjustable bath seat that grows with the child
- Tension adjustable upholstery for added comfort
- Low seat height for better immersion into the water
- Foldable head support to aid with hair washing

Ollo Book Healthcare Ltd

32 Parsonage Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0LD
Tel: 01784 744 926 Fax: 01784 744 929
Website: www.ollobook.co.uk



Fred Walden reports from a colourful – and unusually accessible – Chelsea flower show

For one week every year in May, the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea are magically changed into the world's most stunning collection of show gardens and two floral pavilions crammed with the best plants from around the planet.

The phenomenon that is Chelsea is increasingly attracting charities and celebrities hungry for publicity.

I visited the show this year to check out the disability related gardens and to see if access for disabled visitors had improved.

The charity gardens

Two gardens really stood out in the charity sector. Firstly, the Motability garden, designed by Paul Stone. This superb garden conformed to the current trend of naturalistic planting using swathes of flowers and shrubs in

a natural looking landscape. The unique feature of the garden was the subtle insertion of a Renault Clio complete with wheelchair hanging out of the boot.

The plants were typical of a country park with rhododendrons and viburnums, but the road, paths and waterfall gave the impression of a country scene and attracted many admirers and a silver flora medal.

The idea of the garden was

to celebrate 25 years of Motability and convey a sense of freedom and discovery that the charity has given to many of its beneficiaries.

I really liked this garden and was even able to enter into it and leave my tyre tracks to add to its authenticity!

The Help the Aged SoHo garden was very different. Designed by Mark Gregory, it was meant to show how the garden and small home office (SoHo) can be incorporated to enhance the lifestyle of older people.

All well and good; however, the technology packed shed-cum-office was situated next to a pond surrounded by slippery wooden decking and reached by – wait for it – glass stepping stones! Call me a cynic, but I had images of even the most agile of our aged workers taking an unscheduled dip every now and then. One person even suggested to me that the garden be renamed “Hurt the Aged”.

On top of the obvious dangers, the garden would be a horror to maintain – the carefully trimmed hedges of field maple would go berserk in weeks unless constantly maintained.

When so many elderly people struggle to keep any sort of garden I feel this was a bit of a “mickey take”, wasting the expensive skills of a top designer to create something that would become a liability to anyone. The garden won a silver-gilt medal, so perhaps I missed the point?

Favourite gardens

The Hasmead Octopus garden designed by Marney Hall was a fantasy garden and a delight

to my eyes. The concept involved using brightly coloured exotic plants to re-create the underwater world of the coral reef. Having dived in the Red Sea a few times I can say that the effect was achieved. Swathes of Icelandic poppies, daisies and huge red proteas represented the fish, whilst ornamental cabbages and lettuce mimicked the coral.

The Merrill Lynch garden designed by Xa Tollemache and Jon Kellet featured the most stunning display of tall blue plants such as delphiniums and Himalayan poppies (meconopsis). The lawn made this one of the more “normal” gardens at the show but no less impressive.

Another fantasy garden was the Haddestone Oasis of Ruins designed by Simon Scott. This garden was based on a half-buried Roman Temple from Syria or Egypt and immersed me in the tranquillity of its palms and ferns.

The floral pavilion

During one of the many rain showers I took refuge in the floral pavilion and came across Simon Weston helping to launch a new lily for Chanctonbury Nurseries in West Sussex.

The flame-red hybrid Alstroemeria lily is also known as the “heroes lily”. It can flower for up to six months and last up to four weeks when cut.

All proceeds from the sale of the lily will go to the Royal Star and Garter home for disabled ex-servicemen. I had a glass of wine with resident Derek Traylen and he said it was a “jolly nice place”.

The horticultural community is typically generous and you can buy the heroes lily by mail order from the home for £5.99 plus £2 postage, tel. 020 8948 8865.

Access at the show

Despite being used by troupes of dancing girls as changing rooms, the disabled toilets I found were very good and well sited. The shop stands in Eastern Avenue will probably never be fully accessible but most other places were. Some kerbs into the pavilions were hard to negotiate and could be improved.

However, given the exceptional quality of the show this year and the superhuman effort it must have taken from the retiring organiser Mavis Sweetingham, I can forgive these few transgressions – just this once.

For gardening news and views, visit Fred Walden's website at www.fredshed.co.uk

DN disabilitynowsubscriptions

Subscribe today and get a free DN mug*



Subscribe to **DN** today and make sure you get to hear about all the latest jobs across the country. Not only is there a recruitment section in each issue, but we now also have a mid-month recruitment supplement, **DN EXTRA**.

By subscribing, you will also guarantee that you receive **DN**s news, information and features every month – directly to your door!

To subscribe, call our hotline **0845 120 7001** (lo-call rate), visit

www.disabilitynow.org.uk or complete the form below and send it to our FREEPOST address.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

Are you on a means-tested benefit? If so, you can subscribe to **DN** at no cost! Simply attach proof of entitlement to this form (documentation showing name of claimant and benefit type).

Benefits accepted: income support, housing benefit, council tax exemption, disabled person's tax credit, job seeker's allowance.

For more information, call our **HOTLINE**.

Disability Now

Subscriptions,

FREEPOST NATE1512,

Somerton TA11 6ZA

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

I/We enclose a cheque or postal order for £ _____ which includes a donation of £ _____ **DN07/03**

I authorise you to charge my Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch ☐

Card No.: Issue No. (Switch only) ☐

Valid from: / / Expiry date: / /

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Cheques payable to Disability Now. Send to address above.

Those on means-tested benefits

FREE

See details on left

*** Subject to availability.**

Individual at home address

1 year

£18

2 years

£35

Professional/organisation

1 year

£28

2 years

£53

Europe

1 year

£33

Rest of world

1 year

£35

Multiple copy rates available on request.



ALL PICTURES: FRED WALDEN

English country garden: a lawn circled by delphiniums forms the centrepiece of the Merrill Lynch garden



Waves of colour: poppies and proteas in the acclaimed Hasmead Octopus garden



Desert oasis: palms and ferns skirt crumbling pillars in The Haddestone Oasis of Ruins, designed by Simon Scott



Out in the field: (from top left, clockwise) Simon Weston launches the new "Heroes lily" with Derek Traylen, a resident of the Star and Garter home in Richmond; TV host Eammon Holmes, Julie Fernandez and Motability garden designer Paul Stone; the rather inaccessible Help the Aged garden; and, below, the Motability garden – a Renault Clio taking centre stage.



MINI HOIST

Wheelchair, Electric Wheelchair & Electric Scooter Lifts



- Fits saloons, hatchbacks, estates, people carriers and 4x4's.
- Three models to lift 30kg, 100kg and 150kg wheelchairs and scooters.
- Power in / out option on 100 / 150kg models.
- Radio remote control operation on all power in / out models.
- Easily transferred to your next vehicle.

CALL FREE ON 0800 214 045 FOR INFORMATION.

Free Home demonstration on request

AUTOCHAIR

HOME FITTING AVAILABLE

Website: www.autochair.co.uk E-mail: info@autochair.co.uk

DN begins its annual, three-month rundown of the best in accessible days out around the country. First up, London

Capital excursions



Esther Collington was impressed by access and the sense of history at the Houses of Parliament

I recently spent a wonderful day in the Houses of Parliament.

I discovered that by ringing the office of Liz Blackman, my member of parliament, I could arrange a free, personally guided tour for myself. Liz's office

also runs a coach trip to the Houses of Parliament three or four times a year at a reasonable cost, but unfortunately the coach is unsuitable for wheelchair users.

My personal assistant Val and I travelled on the train from

Derby – a trip that I have done many times with varying degrees of ease. The staff are usually helpful at the station, and access onto the train is fairly easy.

We arrived safely at St Pancras Station in London and

hired a black cab to take us to our destination.

The cabs are suitable for electric and non electric wheelchairs, although I have to travel sideways because there is not enough room to face backwards as is recommended. You'll need luck on your side to get a helpful driver – some appear to regard it as a chore to stir themselves from their seat, while others can't seem to do enough.

We were met at the Victoria Tower entrance to the Houses of Parliament by Philipa, Liz's assistant. From there, we were taken through a security check and then into the House of Lords.

The Lords is very ornate, with gold everywhere. In contrast, the House of Commons is relatively plain. We went through the Lords, past the Woolsack, the Lord Chancellor's traditional seat, and into the area where Commons members come after being summoned by Black Rod to the state opening by the Queen.

We then passed down a corridor with murals depicting the execution of King Charles I – a reminder of what can happen when Royalty get too ambitious! From there, we entered the central lobby which

has a post office from where we sent ourselves a letter with the famous Houses of Parliament postmark.

We saw the lobby, where MPs vote, then went into the chamber of the Commons. This is fascinating, especially after seeing it so many times on TV. We passed the speaker's chair and the dispatch boxes. We also saw some famous faces, including Edward Heath, Tony Benn, Jack Straw and Glenda Jackson.

The oldest part we visited was Westminster Hall, where the trial of King Charles I was held and where the Queen Mother lay in state.

We had a lovely lunch with Liz and Philipa, then Philipa took us to watch the speaker's procession.

Access was easy throughout our visit – there were plenty of lifts, and various routes to avoid steps. The only thing that may cause difficulties for extra large wheelchairs is a single narrow doorway.

If you are interested in the history of our country and would like to see at first hand how it is governed, I strongly recommend a visit.

For further information: www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting.cfm

FreeRider
Working together

Summer Special

Save £300
S.R.P. £2299.00

Kensington

RING TODAY FOR YOUR HOME DEMONSTRATION ON
01536 443888

FREERIDER (UK) LTD, FREEPOST MID 16985,
CORBY, NORTHANTS NN17 4BR

email: info@freerider.co.uk www.freerider.co.uk



The acclaimed new Tate a Tate river-boat service is not only great fun – it's accessible to all. Anne Davies (right) gets riverbound

The new boat service on the Thames, running between the Tate Britain and Tate Modern galleries and stopping at the London Eye, seemed an excellent idea for my friend and I to try.

We started our trip from Bankside, and phoned Tate Modern ahead of time to reserve a badge-holder's space. It took a while to get the right person, but

we got a place in the end.

At Bankside, we took a quick push around the vast Turbine hall, and checked at the information desk for the times of sailing – we found out that the boat sails every 40 minutes.

Boarding was easy. We went along the Queen's walk, down the ramp to Bankside Pier and then onto the beautiful Hurricane clipper, which sports

interior design by Damien Hirst. At all times, the crew were very helpful.

Concession tickets cost £2.25 each, and can be used as often as you like between the Bankside, Waterloo and Millbank Millennium piers on the day of issue.

One of the great joys of river travel is that the buildings on both banks look so different

THE ROYAL COLLECTION © 2003, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Frances Loates took her learning disabled daughter, Charlotte (right), to Buckingham Palace for a day, but found the treatment far from royal

Have you ever longed to drive up the Mall and sweep through the gilded gates of Buckingham Palace? Well now is your chance, because at the moment, disabled visitors who have pre-booked do not have to join the throngs and line up at the official visitors' side entrance. In theory, they just drive on in.

I said "in theory" because I wish there was a sign. It's quite daunting to realise you will have to move bollards aside, then slowly manoeuvre your car though curious tourists and check with the on-duty policemen if you really can go through.

To make matters worse, it took them a while to locate our car registration details on "the list" of those allowed entry at that time on that day. So we sat and waited, some of us embarrassed, while the throngs with their noses pressed up against the gates gawped (some

even filmed us!) in anticipation.

Once it had been established that we were innocent day-trippers, we were escorted into the famous quadrangle. Think Tony Blair arriving for his weekly meeting with the Queen, think of the family stepping into golden carriages en route to royal weddings – we've seen it all on telly and it really feels special to be sweeping into that imposing space yourself.

Once inside, however, the treatment is far from royal. There are a couple of security checks, plus a certain amount of waiting around for staff to escort you to the start of the so-called "special needs tour"; visitors can't go anywhere unescorted in the palace.

Indeed "welcoming" is not a word I would use to describe staff attitudes to disabled visitors. Instead, most give the impression that visitors are privileged to be there – in the politest possible was, of course.

The palace has adapted the regular tour of the state rooms for disabled visitors to avoid any stairs. The party is asked to wear yellow stickers which identify you to attendants who are on the look out and briskly open up roped off areas and summon lifts and escorts as needed.

Nothing prepared us for the splendour we were to experience. Charlotte gasped with delight at the predominantly gold and red décor, and the other girls were amazed at the incredible collection of paintings so familiar from biscuit tins.

We were glad to have opted not to use the wheelchair. The one-way route was packed out and Charlotte's view would have been restricted by the shuffling crowds.

Rather uncharitably, I thought, staff in the ballroom urged visitors to move along. People were understandably reluctant to do so, as recent

"scenes in the life" of the ballroom (investitures and banquets) were played on a television screen in one corner, and rather magically brought the room to life and gave it some context.

What struck us most about Buckingham Palace was how utterly pristine everything was. Accustomed to National Trust properties which often have that reassuring "lived-in" look, all the Palace's immaculate décor, furnishings, antiques and priceless treasures started to look strangely unreal.

Charlotte was enchanted by views of the garden from the blue drawing room and the music room, but was disappointed to discover that access to this "walled oasis in the middle of London" was not available to us because of the need to stick to the special route.

We were quite sad about this. Our children had been looking forward to visiting the setting of the wonderful Golden Jubilee concerts, and were longing for a breath of fresh air before resuming the tour.

So, what did we make of it? I think what we missed most was a feeling that the place was a home. Not that we expected to be able to bounce on royal beds and admire displays of casual family snaps, but a glimpse of

the kitchens would have made the place more real – or even an insight into the vast administrative machine which works behind the scenes. And as disabled visitors, it's hard to know whether we would have avoided feeling as uncomfortably restrained and regimented had we been "regular" visitors.

I guess at the end of the day what you come away with depends on whether you view the opening up of the state rooms of Buckingham Palace as a special favour granted by the Queen to her subjects or as your right as taxpayers in a democracy to view part of your heritage. Charlotte probably lacked the reverence that many would have expected when visiting the Queen's London residence, but most definitely adored the glitz and glamour. *If you wish to use the access visitor's route, maps and instructions detailing the entrance to the palace will be sent to you in advance of your visit. The state rooms of Buckingham Palace are open daily from 6 August until 28 September 2003, although additional dates may be added. To book, contact the credit card booking line: 020 7321 2233. Online booking can be found at: www.royal.gov.uk*



from a boat. We enjoyed views of Portcullis House, the Houses of Parliament, Lambeth Palace, the London Eye and the Oxo Tower to name a few.

The trip takes around 20 minutes to the striking new Millbank Millennium Pier, which has a well-designed ramp. Good signage tells you the way to Tate Britain.

Access is through either the Clore Gallery, which houses the great Turner paintings, or the newly-built Manton entrance on Atterbury Street.

After coffee, we made our way back onto the boat, and returned to Bankside. We then took a trip across the Millennium bridge, and back along the Queen's walk, passing the Globe theatre.

You could spend the whole day exploring both sides of the river, thanks to the latest super boat service and accessible piers. Do try it – there is something for all the family. *Further information from Tate ticketing, tel: 020 7887 8888, Monday to Fridays, or via www.tatetotate.com*

Disability Awareness Day 2003

(An Independent living exhibition with a difference)

Sunday 13th July

Walton Hall Gardens, Warrington (off A56)

A huge tented village will house over 280 exhibitors with information about support groups and services, equipment, transport, holidays, employment and much more. Supported by an extravaganza of Sports, Arts, Children's soft play area and a fun packed programme of Family entertainment. 25,000 people attended last years event, making it Europe's largest event of its type. Come and see why.

All facilities accessible, BSL interpreters, wheelchair loans, and enablers, free park & ride schemes

For further details contact the Disability help-line on 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk

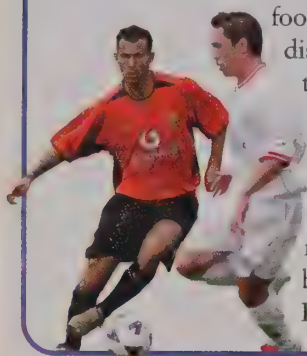


Around the UK in seven days

When the Great British sun finally breaks through the clouds, it can be hard to choose a day out from the thousands on offer. Dan Batten sorts the tops from the flops and profiles his week-long pick of the best

MONDAY

If there's a football fanatic in the family, then they'll get a kick out of the National Football Museum in Preston. Featuring artefacts from 100 top clubs around the world, the museum is divided into two halves, tackling equipment, skills, tactics and, if there are arguments over any aspect of the game, the official football book of rules is on display. There's also a chance to take part in a special edition of *Match of the Day* and see the FIFA museum collection, one of the biggest collections of memorabilia in the world. I'd need to be shown the red card before I left here in a hurry! Free entry. Tel: 01772 908442.



TUESDAY

Want to see how people's home lives have changed through the years? Then visit the Museum of the Home in Pembroke. The museum contains an impressive collection of domestic equipment, home crafts and Welsh folk arts from the early 1600s. It is also home to one of the largest and most comprehensive toy and game collections on display in Wales. Sounds like domestic bliss. Open until 28 September, Mon-Thurs, 11am-5pm, tel: 01646 681200.

WEDNESDAY



A brief journey east along the Welsh coast brings you to the Y Goeden Fach Bonsai Centre in Carmarthenshire.

The centre has a number of British and traditional Chinese and Japanese Bonsai on display in four large greenhouses, as well as a Japanese garden, water features and oriental statues. And if you're really taken with these tiny trees, you can buy them to take home. Tel: 01269 842790.

SUNDAY

Flying fanatics can end their week with a visit to the infamous Museum of Flight.

Scotland's national aviation museum features a huge collection of aircraft and rockets all housed on a World War II airfield. On show are Spitfires, supersonic jets and the oldest plane in Britain. There's also a changing programme of special events, flying displays and demonstrations to enjoy, so buckle up and take off to Scotland. Tel: 01620 880308

SATURDAY

If you want to know what's what regarding access in the county of Cheshire, a click or two of your mouse on the new "Cheshire for All" website will put you in the picture. The site, the first of its kind in the UK, contains audio guided tours to leading Cheshire sites as well as independently verified information on access and facilities at attractions including Chester Cathedral, Cheshire Military Museum and, if you've a sweet tooth, the Cheshire Farm Ice Cream and Tea Rooms, which I can personally vouch for! www.cheshireforall.com



FRIDAY

It's time to get close and personal with some of nature's wonders at the West Midland Safari & Leisure Park. This self-drive safari park in the heart of Worcestershire is set in over 150 acres of land where you can view the likes of rare white tigers, zebras, lions, elephants, gnus and the wonderfully named Przewalski's horse. If you have a taste for the aquatic, you can check out the seaquarium exhibit, and if the kids in your party fancy thrills of a more man-made variety, they can go into the amusement area, which includes the rhino rollercoaster and the congo carousel. Just the thing after lunch at the Botswana Burger Co. Tel: 01299 400700, web: www.wmsp.co.uk



THURSDAY

Thinking of taking a trip to Salisbury? Then make sure you have *Access Salisbury* to hand. Produced by Salisbury district council, the guide contains access details on places including shops, transport and places of worship, with an easy to use key giving details on accessibility. The guide also contains information on useful services and organisations, including dentists, should your teeth require a quick polish. It costs £1 from Salisbury Shopmobility, tel: 01722 328068 or from the Salisbury Tourist Information Centre, tel: 01722 334956.



COUNTRY LIFE PICTURE LIBRARY

Have you heard the news?

More than 200 national newspapers and magazines are now available on audio tape or in electronic format for anyone who has difficulty reading.

All your favourite national titles are available from Talking Newspapers. Recorded in our own studios by our experienced team of sound engineers and readers, these publications are supplied on quality audio tape - many are also available in electronic format for use on a PC. To order your **FREE** catalogue or for further information please call:

0870 442 9592

Talking Newspaper Association of the UK is a registered charity, No: 293656

TNAUK
National Recording Centre, Heathfield
East Sussex, TN21 8DB

Web site: www.tnauk.org.uk

Email: info@tnauk.org.uk



Reader's Digest... Daily Mail... Woman's Weekly... Guardian... Hi-Fi News... Time... Cosmopol

Toast of the east coast

The picturesque Yorkshire Riviera offers all you need for a summer getaway: sea, sand and plenty of shops. June Fenwick reports on three accessible spots

Scarborough

Located at the edge of the North Yorkshire moors, Scarborough (*below*) is one of the most popular holiday destinations in the country. Its two sandy blue-flag bays are divided by the famous cliff-top castle and a harbour stretches below, making it the ideal tourist trap.

The town boasts attractions for all ages. Kids will love playing on the sand and crabbing among the North Bay rock pools, while older kids will enjoy the penny arcades along the South Bay promenade and the many funfair rides.

But what if you are disabled or elderly and cannot climb the stairs or the hills? Fortunately, help is at hand.

From the seafront to the top of the cliff there is a tram lift which gives a bird's eye view over the South Bay.

The tram takes you up to the town centre, but you may prefer to amble up the hillside on any one of the access roads.

One enjoyable detour is via the St Nicholas Gardens which have been redesigned to cater for the increasing number of disabled visitors.

When you reach the town you are confronted by a host of well known shops all tempting you with their wares – but how accessible are they?

coffees and hot chocolates, each one served with its own delicious continental chocolates.

A must-see for any visitor is the **Sea Life Centre** on the North Bay. The marine life is spectacular, the access is excellent, and there is a wheelchair lift to the cafeteria on the first floor.

Accessibility in Scarborough is let down only by the parking. Although there are disabled spaces in all the town car parks, they have to be paid for. This is fine, but reminder notices are placed by car park entrances, and one or two disabled drivers have said they failed to see them. Their mistake cost them £50 in clamping fees, so be warned!

A second drawback is the ongoing development to the sea defences which is causing disruption around the town, so if you're visiting in the summer and wish to drive along Marine Drive – which is a lovely trip – be prepared to queue.

Filey

Eight miles south of Scarborough is Filey, a small coastal town with a great beach that stretches for miles. Out of season, thoroughbred horses can be seen racing along the sands or through the shallows.

The town centre is small,

with two supermarkets and a number of small businesses which have been there for years. Not many of the shops are easily accessible, but it is safe to leave scooters outside them for a short time.

For those not wishing to take wheelchairs or scooters on holiday, there is an excellent shop called **Keepmobile.com**, from which you can hire wheelchairs and scooters for a nominal fee. The shop owners,



Sitting on the dock of the bay: June in Whitby, in front of HMS Bark Endeavour

Stephen and Alan Willcox, are very accommodating, and if they don't have what you need, they will order it for you.

Whitby

Twenty miles north of Scarborough, over the North Yorkshire Moors, is Whitby.

It's a beautiful town, with narrow cobbled streets and paths with flagged paving. This may cause difficulties for some wheelchair users, but the town council is reluctant to redevelop such a historic place.

It is also very hilly, so either you or your attendant will need a good pair of muscles.

Whitby Abbey is on the Southern side of the bay and can be accessed by road. It was the cemetery that inspired the Dracula stories and twice a year the town is overrun by a collection of the wacky and sombre for the renowned "Goth weekends". The next one – if you're brave enough to face it – falls at the end of October.

It was from Whitby that Captain Cook set sail in the Endeavour. A replica, the **HMS Bark Endeavour**, will be there until 7 July. If you contact the Scarborough Tourist Information Office and tell them you are disabled, they may be able to arrange a special viewing of the boat for you, with nice big Australian sailors on hand to help you below deck.

Accommodation information for the Yorkshire Riviera, written for disabled people, is available from the **Disablement Action Group (DAG)**, an excellent charity

that has helped people in Scarborough with a variety of problems. For £1.50 plus postage they will be able to send you a booklet containing details of hotels in the local area and the help they can provide.

All in all, Scarborough, Whitby and Filey are lovely places to visit. They need some work here and there, but access is improving all the time, making them great British holiday destinations.

CONTACTS

Keepmobile.com,
21a Mitford Street, Filey,
tel: 01723 514411 or see
www.keepmobile.com.

Disablement Action Group, tel: 01723 379397

Scarborough Tourist Information Office,
tel: 01723 373333

HMS Bark Endeavour
tel: 08707 458 958
www.barkendeavour.com.au



The **Brunswick Shopping Arcade** contains smaller versions of large stores like Debenhams, Adams and Evans. Access is through automatic doors and there is a lift to the second floor.

The ground floor has a central cafeteria that serves strong coffee, but personally I prefer **Thorntons**, the toffee makers, on the main street. Not only does it have good access; they also sell a variety of

Mangar Surfer Bather



Two Year Guarantee
Excl. Batteries

CE

MAKES BATHTIME FUN for EVERYONE!

- Portable • Stable
- Adjustable Backrest & Pommel
- Lightweight
- Easy to Clean
- Easy to Store
- Enables a child to lie supine




I would like a Free Brochure ☐

A Free Demonstration ☐

Name

Address

Tel: No: Fax: No:

DN7/03

Contact: Sales Dept. **Mangar International**, Presteigne, Powys, Wales, U.K. Tel: (01544) 267674 Fax: (01544) 260287
email: sales@mangar.co.uk website: www.mangar.co.uk

Keeping safe away from home

Insect bites, sunburn and overseas healthcare all pose risks to summer holidays. Anne Davies tells you what you should know in advance, and what to pack in your suitcase

You can be bitten by mosquitoes in the UK and Europe – I've suffered! So be sure to take some insect repellent on holiday with you. Look for Autan, Mosz, and Boots and Superdrug brands.

Design-go have a whole range of protective sprays and creams, including Mosqui-Go wipes (*right*) at £2.99, which offer protection from mosquitoes and insect bites, and Bite Relief, £6.99, which gives quick comfort, reduces swelling and is safe for children. Visit www.design-go.com

Bug guards and insect repellent brands can give protection for several hours each day. Nelson's homeopathic products, such as Pyrethrum Spray, protect against stings and insect bites, £4.30. Tel: 020 7493 2404, www.nelsons.co.uk.

Every year, we are warned to keep out of the sun and avoid the risk of skin cancer. Creams and lotions should be chosen carefully and applied frequently. Many firms have updated their products.

Garnier Ambre Solaire's new range (*right*) has natural ingredients, such as cactus nutriflavine combined with Vitamin E, giving long-lasting protection against UVA and UVB rays. Their kids' SPF 30 coloured protection trigger

spray goes on green and changes colour so you can see what areas you've covered! Available at Boots, Superdrug and independent pharmacies.

If you want a tan without the sun, Estée Lauder produces natural-looking results.

Their Fast Tan Quick-Dry Sunless Spray is alcohol and oil free, and sells for £16.50 for 125ml. Their full range can be found in high street stores, or on www.esteelauder.co.uk

Delph sun care range for the family is not tested on animals and said to be most effective.



All the creams are tested for safety and efficacy to medical standards. New are the Delph travel size SPF15 lotion cream (£1.39), the after sun gel with aloe vera (£2.49), and the self-tan sun cream (£3.99).

Many people prefer to use natural products. Elemis, the leading British spa brand, use only the finest-quality plant extracts with natural therapeutic bases and UVA/UVB sun filters, for both men and women. Their useful travel pack, Summer Essentials (*right*), contains after sun block, wrinkle control sun

screen, SPF25, ice cool sun lotion, SPF8 and SOS Emergency cream. It comes packed in a brightly coloured summer bag, selling at a special offer of £15 until

27 July. Tel: 020 8954 8033, www.elemis.com

New at Helena Rubinstein is High Protection Golden Range anti-wrinkle sun care, with SPF factors of 8, 15 or 30 for faces (£16) and sun moisturizing spray. If you want a golden glow over the weekend, try Weekend Bronzer, SPF6, for £16. Stockists: 08701 109 705.

Charles Worthington have added Suntime Hair Solutions to their take away range (*below, left*). Their UV protection shampoo, conditioner, spray and waterproof hair gel sell for £1.63 each at Boots.

Eyes need to be cared for, but there's no need to spend a lot of money – just make sure the lenses of your sunglasses conform to BSEN 1836 1997.

So many of us get tired, aching feet and legs while travelling. Try a cooling gel, such as Elemis instant refreshing gel – containing arnica, camphor and menthol – or Lotil, a new peppermint foot cream for £2.99 a tube. And there's also the Efasit range of



tested products, including ultra cooling gelée at £2.99 and super relaxing leg lotion at £2.99. Available from leading chemists and supermarkets nationwide.

Debenhams' capsule range of individual ampoules and wipes for skin care are ideal for travelling. Visit www.debenhams.com or call 020 7408 4444 for stockists.

Carry a torch with you when going out at night. Pifco make the Evo Key Fob, which fits right on your key ring (£4.99) and the Evo Torch (*above*), which comes with a soft-touch easy grip, is extra powerful

and waterproof to one metre of water (£9.99, including batteries). <http://www.pifco.co.uk/brands/pifco.html>



Mobility Services Ltd

'Run by the disabled, for the disabled'

QMobility Services Ltd is a company run by disabled people, working to help other less able and disabled people. Our services staff have life-long experience in the field of mobility and disability products, assuring you a quick and quality service.

Products available:

- Manual Wheelchairs
- Indoor / Outdoor Powerchairs
- Scooters
- Mobility Aids
- Universal Accessories
- Specialist Equipment
- Car Hoists & Lifts

Services:

- 24 hour Breakdown Recovery Service
- Annual Service
- Safety Check
- Battery Check
- Car and Van Adaptations
- Community Transport Maintenance

Extensive Range of Mobility and Disability Aids Available.

Tel: 01303 258848

Fax: 01303 256677

email:

sales@qmobilityservices.co.uk

website:

www.qmobilityservices.co.uk

Unit 3, 12 Ross Way, Shorncliffe Ind. Est, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3UJ



By



SWEDISH HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS FOR AN EASIER LIFE . . .



* Ranked 1st in British Clinical Trial



Why select Clean as your combination shower and commode chair?

Answer: Because it allows sideways transfers easily and it is rust free due to its' single tube construction.



Why use a 4-wheeled walker?

Answer: Swedish research has proven that the 4-wheeled walkers effectively reduce falling accidents and improve mobility.



Nordic Care Services Ltd
Becket Lodge, Harbledown Park, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8NR
Tel: +44 (0) 1227 479293 Fax: +44 (0) 1227 477958
Email: info@walkeze.co.uk
Web Site: <http://www.walkeze.co.uk>

If you have a food allergy, it can be quite a problem when travelling. I was rather interested to find "Holiday Tips" in an issue of the *Inside Story*, published by Berrydales. It contains 14 tips for those who are intolerant to certain foods. For info, email: info@insidestory.com

Are you a Blue Badge holder? Get the free booklet, *European Parking for People with Disabilities*. Call 020 7944 6800, Wales: 02920 826501, Scotland 0131 244 0860.

A recent report has noted that people do not seek any health advice before going on holiday. The Department of Health's free booklet *Health Advice for Travellers*, is packed with information and has the application form EIII in the back. This is the passport for free or reduced cost medical treatment in most European countries. Tel: 0800 555 777, or check www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice

It's all in the detail...

The Volkswagen Sharan, Citroen Berlingo Multispace, Mercedes Vaneo, Fiat Multipla and Renault Kangoo (MPV) are all makes and models of car that are now widely converted.

The cars may be the same - but it's the "CONVERSION THAT COUNTS".

See for yourself the difference with a Brotherwood conversion.



**Mercedes
Brotherwood Klastar™**
conversion from **£22,973.70**
- available with a choice of 1.6 and 2.0 petrol
or 1.7 diesel engines with manual 5 speed or
automatic transmissions. Low & level floor
with 1500mm (60") headroom.

*Innovation,
like many words in the English language, is misused.
We prefer customers to look carefully at the
detailing of Brotherwood
conversions.*



Fiat Multipla from **£20,864.40**

- Petrol 1.6 SX - Manual 5 speed or Diesel available. Low & level floor through
to forward passenger position with 56" headroom.



Volkswagen Sharan SE With standard roof (54" headroom)
from **£26,479.53** (2.0 "SE" petrol, manual 5 speed).
Including raised roof (59" headroom) from **£27,929.53**

Citroën Berlingo from **£14,778.90**
- 1.4i Petrol Forte - Manual 5 speed, Low & Level
floor (61" flat floor conversion) with 57" headroom.



Renault Kangoo
from **£15,230.39**

- Petrol 1.4 Automatic
- Petrol 1.4 Manual
- Diesel 1.9 Automatic
- Diesel 1.9 Manual
- Petrol 1.6 Automatic
- Petrol 1.6 Manual
- Diesel 2.0 Automatic
- Diesel 2.0 Manual

NEW OR USED • SHORT & LONG TERM HIRE • FINANCE • AFTER SALES SERVICE • BUY-BACK SERVICE

Phone now for more details and availability: **Tel: 01935 872603**

Fax: 01935 872853 or e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com

BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP

Visit our website www.brotherwood.com for more information on our complete range of conversions



Motability

* This is a trade mark of Motability
registered charity No. 201402

BRITAIN'S BEST VALUE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 7 DAYS A WEEK. FREE 5 YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY

PEUGEOT EUROBUS 8/9 SEATER 2.0HDI

FROM **£13,995** PLUS VAT FROM **£67.50** PER WEEK*

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- FULL WHEELCHAIR minibus with M1 specification (VCA approved) • Europe's best selling diesel engine • Up to 52 mpg • Electric heated & adjustable mirrors • Height adjustable steering wheel • Height adjustable pretensioner seatbelts • Remote central locking • Driver's airbag • Remote radio control • Heated rear windows • Tinted glass all round • High level brake light

VARIOUS SEATING OPTIONS **PLUS** ALL MIDDLE ROW SEATS TIP FOR EASE OF ACCESS TO REAR SEATS



APR **9.84%**

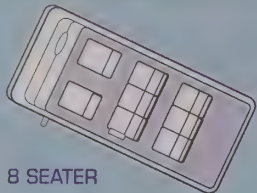
NO DEPOSIT; 60 months at £290.40, weekly equivalent £67.01, Total Amount payable - £17423.78 (incl. Administration Charges, payable with first and last payment) *Presuming exemption from VAT & Road Tax

NOW AVAILABLE

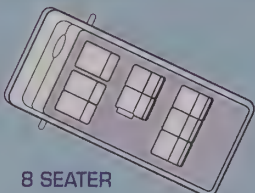
FULLY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SEATING - STANDARD

- Triple rear seat all with lap and diagonal seatbelts
- Triple middle seats with 60/40 split option
 - Fully removable middle row
- Single front seat with double passenger seat option • Full wheelchair restraints fitted
- Full lap and diagonal seatbelt for wheelchair use



8 SEATER



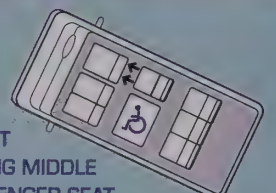
8 SEATER



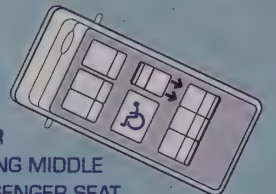
9 SEATER



9 SEATER



FRONT
FACING MIDDLE
PASSENGER SEAT



REAR
FACING MIDDLE
PASSENGER SEAT

NEW FIAT FREEDOM

FROM **£10,495** PLUS VAT FROM **£50.25** PER WEEK*

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Full M1 specification (VCA approved) • 4 Point wheelchair restraint system or Koller system • Integral wheelchair 3 point with upper torso restraint belt • Remote control operated wheelchair winch system • 1 piece detachable folding rear ramp • Maintains original floor structure integrity • 60/40 rear seating arrangement (double or single) • Rear entry for wheelchairs • Increased driver/passenger headroom



* Vehicle shown is 1.9 JTD ELX model.
* Price shown is for 1.9 D SX model.

APR **10.02%**

OPTIONAL EXTRAS INCLUDE:

- ABS • Heated electric door mirrors • Rear mudflaps • Metallic paint • Radio with single slot CD • Telephone predisposition • Front seat side airbags • Reverse parking sensor • Connect Nav +



PLUS JUST LOOK AT THESE STANDARD FEATURES ON THE 1.9 JTD ELX MODEL:

- Remote central locking • Height-adjustable steering wheel • Twin rear sliding doors • Body coloured bumpers • Front foglights • Radio cassette • Electric front windows • Driver & passenger airbags • Air conditioning • 14" Alloy wheels • Rear fixed head restraints

NO DEPOSIT; 60 months at £217.77, weekly equivalent £52.25, Total Amount payable £10,066.20 (incl. Administration Charges, payable with first and last payment) *Presuming exemption from VAT & Road Tax

FREE 5 YEAR
unlimited mileage warranty on ALL vehicles



Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Allied Vehicles

www.alliedvehicles.com Email: sales@alliedvehicles.com

BRITAIN'S No.1 MINIBUS SUPPLIER

CALL OUR SALES TEAM NOW ON **0800 587 9656**

Making a big splash

After injuring her spine, Eleanor Walsh was determined to keep her job as a swimming coach. Twenty years later, you can still find her at the pool side

When Amateur Swimming Association officials told me that I couldn't coach swimming or be on the pool-side because I used a wheelchair and it would be "unsafe", I went ahead and did it anyway.

"Sod them," I thought. I wasn't going to have anyone tell me what I could or couldn't do. I checked with the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) and the Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches and both were quite happy for me to continue.

I retook a lot of exams, and now train all the lifeguards in pool safety. I am also an RLSS trainer and assessor for the National Pool Lifeguard qualification.

I started out as a PE specialist teacher, but was interested in swimming and even coached while I was in college. About 25 years ago, I came out of school education and started coaching full-time after they built a pool in Cockermouth.

Five years later, while handling a hoist for getting swimmers in and out of the pool, I had an accident that fractured a spinal fusion I had after an accident in a gym. I am now paraplegic and have used a wheelchair ever since.

As principal of the Swim School at Cockermouth Leisure Centre, I coordinate all the swimming lessons and do the staff training for both teachers and lifeguards.

I am also chief coach of Cockermouth Swimming Club. The ones I spend most time with are my elite squad, aged 12 to 18, but I also work with the young ones, from six to seven upwards. I also try to see every child in the club at least once a week.

The elite squad are those swimmers who have achieved a national qualification time, which allows them to compete in the national championships. The two top swimmers in the squad at the moment are Michael Stephenson, from Cockermouth, 17, and Emma Sandwith, 16, from Whitehaven. Both were national champions in their age groups last year.

They are both gifted swimmers, but success is expected of them. I get more reward from some of the other youngsters who have to work hard for their achievements.

I often leave home at 5.40am in the morning to go to the pool; some days, I finish at 10pm. I have time off in between, but usually it is spent in preparation and paperwork.

Swimming coaches work very unsociable hours – the only times local authorities will let you in the pool are when no one else wants to use it.

I have always loved swimming, but to be a coach, you also have to be a good psychologist. It's amazing the amount of psychology you have



Pointing the way: Eleanor (above, left, and below) passes along some expert advice

to use with young swimmers. You have got to be a good motivator with good time management skills. And in recent years, I have also had to have good computer skills because everything sent to me from the governing body comes via email.

During the 20 years I have used a wheelchair, the biggest difficulty I have had is with pools that are not accessible. We still have a lot of them around the UK – it's amazing. Often, there are still steps at the entrance to the buildings. Crystal Palace in London, the former national centre for swimming, is still inaccessible.

And some of the facilities at the new national headquarters for British Swimming, at Loughborough, are inaccessible. To get to one room used for lectures, I have to drag myself up the stairs on my bum. I have told them that I will put up with it for another year, but no longer.

I have asked a lot of managers of pools what they are going to do once the new duties to make facilities accessible under the Disability Discrimination Act come into effect. One pool in our area has steps at the front of the building, as well as steps down to the pool-side, but new pools in Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow are fine, so I just avoid pools with problems.

Although I am a member of the GMB union, I have never used it. That may be because I have sorted out problems myself. But in these days of litigation, it is essential to have a union's backing.

My love of swimming may explain why my daughter

followed me into the same career. She is head age group coach, and her husband is head swimming coach at Louisiana State University in the US. My

The thing I enjoy most in my job is the challenge of getting each swimmer to achieve their potential. Everybody's different – what you can do with one

'I get more reward from some of the other youngsters who really have to work hard for their achievements'

son is a naval officer and is married to a long distance swimmer, Teresa. They both swim regularly in competitions, and Teresa had the fastest channel crossing for a woman in 2001.

swimmer, you can't do with another.

I can't see myself ever not coaching – I enjoy it so much. *Amateur Swimming Association, tel: 01509 618700, fax: 01509 618701*



Narrow Stairs?

Choose Stannah, slimmer by design.

The new stairlifts from Stannah are the slimmest ever, making them perfect for narrower stairs.

- Straight, curved or narrow staircases
- New and reconditioned models
- Nationwide local branches offering sales advice and 24-hour backup
- Fitted to the stairs for fast, clean installation
- Full guarantee and free first service

NEW OUTDOOR MODEL OUT NOW

CALL 0800 715 124 EXT 5418
www.stannah.co.uk/stairlifts

Please send me details. For my household ☐ For a relative ☐

Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____ Tel. _____

Stannah

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 5418,
 FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR

TRUST STANNAH TO MAKE THINGS EASIER.

Film

Disability Film Festival



This year's Disability Film Festival found a great opening night film with *F*ck The Disabled*, a feature-length documentary about gay, disabled and very funny stand-up comic Greg Walloch (below, right). The title refers to an incident where a female friend asked whether he was gay because women wouldn't sleep with him because of his disability. Walloch claims to be starting a charity for women who want to rescue disabled men from this plight.

The festival closed in style too, with *Rush 3*, the latest feature installment of Ray Harrison Graham's drama about a group of young deaf friends. As a highly professional writer who is also a talented director, Graham delivers a story that is exciting, funny, full of surprises and genuinely emotional.

As usual, a lot of the action was among the shorts. *An Artist's Guide to Schizophrenia* was a lovely little documentary about the artist Aidan Schingler. *Annie Dearest* is a cruelly funny parody of *The Miracle Worker*.

I loved Jenni and Tony Meredith's two latest

animations *Opera Pop* and *I Were Torn between the Parrot and the Armadillo* – short, sharp and very funny.

Claudia Kappenberg's split-screen *Journeys* was originally a video installation, created by giving a group of deaf children video cameras, then allowing them to sign commentaries of what they had done. I found it entrancing, although some TV pros said that the amateur camera work made it unwatchable.

North Face, *The Egg* and *Urban Myth*, three high-quality shorts produced by Ewan



Marshall, former artistic director of Graeae, for the BBC, married leading disabled actors with established theatre writers.

I was particularly impressed by *The Egg*, a touching little comedy starring Jamie Beddard, scripted by Patrick Marber, with Frances de la Tour and Tim Healey in support roles.

Some films found their own audience. *By Hook or By Crook*, an American butch lesbian road movie was a hit with some sections of the audience, but left most of us guys a bit puzzled.

Similarly, I found the German/Turkish feature *Langer Gang*, about a group of disabled teenagers in an institution, underscripted, murkily lit and entirely tedious. But for film maker Raina Haig,



Heated confrontation: Jim Broadbent (left) with Charlie Hunman

it was one of the high points of the whole weekend.

And that's why this festival is so important. It lets disabled audiences see disability films and make up their own minds.

Nicholas Nickleby



Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby is a huge serial novel, the early nineteenth century's equivalent to a soap. In filming it, Douglas McGrath has inevitably cut it down enormously, junking all sense of Dickens' social campaigning and reducing many significant characters to cameo roles.

Unfortunately, the central story of *Nicholas Nickleby* doesn't have huge structural integrity.

The Dotheboys Hall sequences (now a picture of a badly-run school, rather than condemnation of a pernicious system) are soon over, leaving a slightly silly melodrama. Will the dissolute Sir Mulberry Hawk (Edward Fox) overcome the virtue of

Nicholas' sister Kate (Romola Garai)? Of course not, and who cares anyway?

But it is melodrama, and needs to be played as such. In particular, Uncle Ralph (Christopher Plummer), the heartless financier, needs to be more heartless. His downfall is suitably affecting. But his cruelty should be the mainspring of the plot.

McGrath seems equally ill at ease with Dickensian sentimentality. Smike turns from a sentimentally-portrayed victim of the schools system Dickens is attacking into simple stereotype: an old-fashioned, honest-to-goodness pathetic cripple. My, you don't see one of those too often these days.

Otherwise, it's decently done. And no film with a cast that also includes Tom Courtenay, Jim Broadbent, Barry Humphries, Juliet Stevenson and Timothy Spall could be completely without incidental pleasures. But overall, frankly, it's a bit dull.

Allan Sutherland

TV



After C4's recent drubbing, celebrity amputee Heather Mills had her right of reply with Piers Morgan on BBC1's *Tabloid Tales*. Shame he didn't get her to deal with some of the issues raised in the previous programme.

Meanwhile fellow amputee, smart talking Svetlana, played a game of "hide the salami" with Tony Soprano in C4's drama *The Sopranos*. It was a sympathy shag – she felt sorry for him.

Staying with C4, did you see the arresting image of the empty wheelchair sinking to the ocean bed in the trailers for *The Death of Klinghoffer*? It was a brilliant trailer, but an atonal modern opera based on the true story of the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship was too challenging for my sensitive ears.

ITV's *Gene Genies* (part of the *Tonight with Trevor McDonald* strand – otherwise known as Remedial News and Current Affairs) followed two reporters who went to Iceland for genotyping. Soon you too could be tested to find out exactly how and why you'll die. But let's face it, guys, when your number's up, your number's up.

Kill or Cure on BBC2 was upsetting for different reasons. The first episode, "Positive Thinking", followed an HIV positive man refusing orthodox treatment in favour of giving £35,000 to a bunch of charlatans who deduced his failure to improve on their "regime" was his own fault. The second episode charted "Phil's Decision" – sports journalist Phil Such's agonising attempt to end his life with dignity following a rapid decline with motor neurone disease.

Disabled actor Nabil Shaban indulged his fantasies about being a Viking warlord in C4's *Secret History: The Strangest Viking*. Through dramatic reconstructions Nabil's personal crusade pondered whether Ivarr the Boneless was a disabled dwarf with brittle bones or a nine foot giant. But as it all happened in AD 865, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it either way.

Jane Shepherd

CORNWALL

Caroline and Colin Northover
invite you to stay at
Tregoninny Farm near Truro (2 miles)
for **bed and breakfast**.

Very secluded and peaceful working farm
with recently converted barns specifically
designed for disabled access and needs.

(All categories)

Most rooms en suite, TV, tea-making etc.

Beautiful panoramic views over unspoilt
countryside from the dining room.

Ideal base for exploring Cornwall.

• Eden Project

• Heligan Gardens

• North and south scenic coastline

All rooms non-smoking. Cot available.

Rates from £20pp + VAT

Weekend and short breaks November-March

Discount for group bookings.

Tel: 01872 520145 Fax: 01872 264406

email: caroline.northover@btinternet.com

Coming up



You'll need to book early for the annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival, running from 3-25 August. Highlights include *All Star Charity Show*, disabled comedian Lawrence Clark's sardonic take on the disabled charity industry, and the Northern Star Theatre Company's *Scenes Unseen*, which explores attitudes to disability. www.edfringe.com



Getting in Touch, a national conference exploring the connections between technology, disability and the arts, will be held on 28 July at the Sallis Benney Theatre, University of Brighton. Sponsored by Lighthouse, the conference will, among other things, showcase the digital work of disabled artists. £30 for individuals. To register, or for information, call Alice Ross on 01273 384222, www.gettingintouch.org.uk



Regeneration, an exhibition of work by disability arts group EnableArtists, hits the Frodsham Art Gallery, Cheshire, on 27 July. Tel: 01928 735832, www.castle-park-arts.co.uk



Max features John Cusack in the title role as a womanising, one-armed Jewish art dealer in Munich who meets up with budding artist Adolf Hitler, a young man torn between his artistic ambitions and political calling. While fictional, director Menno Mayjes professes to be making a political allegory: "The Third Reich was the work of a disappointed artist." That should scare the critics from giving it a bad review! On general release.



excellent

very good

good

OK

poor

The No. 1 event in the South East for the elderly, disabled and healthcare professional. Dedicated to enabling individuals to achieve independence in the home and in the community.

24th – 25th September 2003

Independent LIVING LONDON

Wembley • London

www.independentlivingevents.co.uk

Bringing the community together



FREE ENTRY!

- Over 180 exhibitors displaying 100s of new home healthcare products and services
- Free seminars for healthcare professionals
- Free information point run in association with the Disabled Living Foundation
- Sensory journey run in association with **ROMPA**
- Free mobility loan point for all visitors requiring a scooter or wheelchair to get around the show

Interactive product demonstrations, workshops on well being, a relaxation zone and much more...

Pre-register today for the only event of its kind in the South East at

www.independentlivingevents.co.uk or call

0870 429 4372 for your free tickets.

The Independent Living Series is organised in association with

Therapy Weekly

DISABLED Living FOUNDATION

BHTA
British Healthcare Trade Association



Versa®

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

STYLE, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE
AND SAFETY MAKES OUR
VERSA FAMILY RANGE
THE BENCHMARK OF QUALITY...

ALL OUR VEHICLES ARE
SUPERBLY EQUIPPED, BACKED
WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL BUILD
QUALITY THAT WILL GIVE YOU
PEACE OF MIND.

VW888 NEW FOR 2003

- Caravelle Front
- Electric Windows & Mirrors
- Central Locking • Drivers Air Bag
- Cruise Control • Drivers Lumbar Support

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

UNIQUE
TO

**WIDNES
CAR CENTRE**

THESE ARE JUST A SELECTION OF OUR FINE QUALITY USED VEHICLES

MAKE/MODEL	REG NO.	COLOUR	SPECIFICATION	MILEAGE	£
Renault Kangoo 1.4 Petrol Auto	W985 LBL	Red	Drop floor	4,000	9,595
Renault Kangoo 1.4 Petrol	W322 ODP	Blue	Drop floor, ramp	8,924	9,595
Renault Master 2.5 Diesel	V585 EHG	Red	5 seats, ramp	16,200	9,995
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	W415 DKC	Blue	4 seats, ramp	27,739	8,995
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	W237 DKC	Red	4 seats, ramp, winch	26,236	8,995
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	V965 HHL	Blue	4 seats, ramp, winch	32,000	9,595
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	W263 WAK	Blue	4 seats, ramp	30,000	9,795
VW 888 2.5 Turbo Diesel Versa	OY02 WXC	Blue	4 seats, ramp, winch	22,000	11,995
Fiat Scudo 1.9 Diesel WAV	V427 DPD	Red	Ramp, Drop floor	23,186	9,995
Fiat Scudo 1.9 Diesel WAV	W144 GCD	Red	Ramp, Drop floor	11,200	9,995

- ALL VEHICLES ARE PREPARED AND VALETED • 6 MONTHS WARRANTY
- ALL SECURING EQUIPMENT INCLUDED



ALL PRICES ASSUME VAT AND ROAD FUND LICENSE ZERO RATING. VW & MERCEDES ARE AVAILABLE AS AUTOMATICS. *(LVTA)-LOW VOLUME TYPE APPROVED

MERCEDES BENZ VITO
2.1 turbo diesel 2.0 petrol
£16,795 £16,945
on the road on the road

TOYOTA HIACE* (LVTA)
2.5 C.D.I. turbo diesel
£15,250
on the road

RENAULT MASTER* (LVTA)
2.2 D.C.I. turbo diesel
£16,500
on the road

VW888 SPECIAL* (LVTA)
2.5 turbo diesel
£14,950
on the road

RENAULT TRAFIC
1.9 D.C.I. diesel
£14,750
on the road

For further information, FREE Brochure pack or to arrange a demonstration please contact Philip Beecham or Mike Jones (New Versa Enquiries), Phil Hawkins (Used Versa Specialist).

VERSA SALES 0151 420 2000

Widnes Car Centre Limited, Moor Lane, Widnes Cheshire WA8 7AL.

FAX: 0151 495 1382
website: www.wheelchair-access.co.uk
e-mail: versa@wheelchair-access.co.uk

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00am - 5.30pm



Revolution by design

This year's REMAP winners included a unique tilting chair and a system for cleaning paintbrushes. Mary Wilkinson reports

Denis Reeves from Swindon has chronic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, which means he is permanently bent double and resting on his right shoulder. This position affects his breathing, circulation and blood pressure. He needed an aid that would allow him to transfer more easily from bed to wheelchair, and to turn himself on to his left side by pressing a switch. The unique tilting chair (below), made for him by the

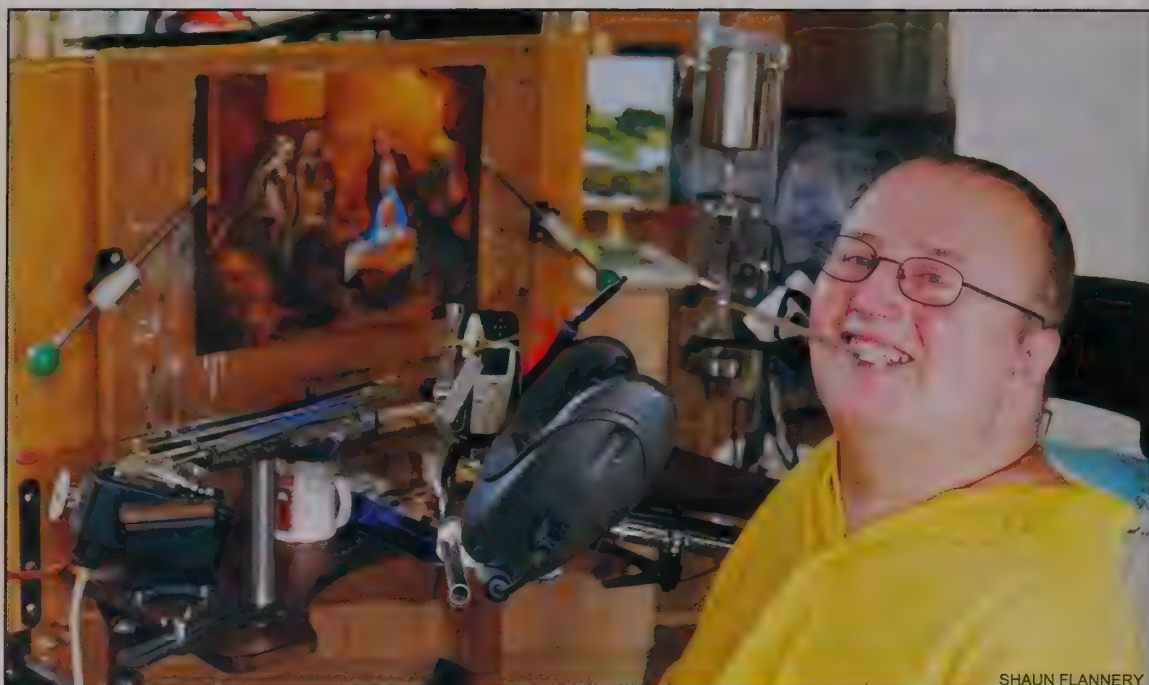


Swindon REMAP panel, has won first prize in this year's REMAP awards.

Reeves commented: "I have tilted to both sides and reached 20 per cent. You can imagine what this means after being in one position for many years."

Second prize went to an automatic pushchair brake for Nicky Cleal, from Warwick, a mum who has epilepsy. She was worried that if she had a seizure while pushing the chair, the child might be harmed. There was no device on the market, so the Coventry and Warwickshire panel modified a discarded bicycle brake lever for her. She's delighted, not only about the safety, but also because the brake can be transferred to a larger pushchair.

Jon Clayton from Doncaster presented his local REMAP panel with another engineering



You gotta have art: Jon Clayton keeps his brushes clean, thanks to his local REMAP panel

problem: as a quadriplegic mouth painter, he needs to wash his brushes often. His carer spent a lot of time doing the washing. Could the panel come up with a device to let him to do the job himself? They did, and won third prize.

"With all their kind help I have been able to have a better quality of life and further my career as an artist," he said.

The Inman award, given for a device that helps a person do their job, went to the Perth & Kinross panel for a "pill popper". Their client, Mrs Fay McNicol of Pitlochry, works in

a chemist's dispensary. She was getting repetitive strain injury in her thumbs and forefingers from pushing pills out of blister packs into pill boxes for people in local nursing homes. So successful was the pill popper that five more have been made.

An award sponsored by Professor Heinz Wolff, chairman of the judges, also went to the Coventry and Warwickshire panel, for a software package that allowed Paralympic gold medallist Bob Matthews, who is blind, to create and monitor his own training sessions without having

to rely on other people. Another visually impaired runner now wants a copy of the program.

Other prizes were for an automatic pill dispenser (Derby & Burton District panel) and a low gas fire control for a woman with arthritis who has difficulty bending (Hull and East Riding panel).

If you need a device that you cannot find commercially, or would like to become a volunteer panel member of the charity, contact REMAP, tel: 0845 130 0456, www.remap.org.uk REMAP's services are free.



**The Fiat Doblo
1.9d SX**

High Roof
from £8,495

Standard Roof
Lowered Floor
from £10,995

**The Fiat Scudo
1.9 Diesel**
from £14,495
2.0 JTD
from £15,845



OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE

KANGOO FROM £11,295

BERLINGO FROM £11,495

DISPATCH FROM £14,495

TRAFFIC FROM £13,995

MASTER FROM £15,995

ALSO A WIDE SELECTION
OF USED VEHICLES
NOW IN STOCK!

O & H MOBILITY
UNIT 1, ROYAL MILL
DUNFORD LANE
BRIGHTON, BN1 1AA
WEST YORKSHIRE, HD11 1LL
NATIONAL SALES HOTLINE
0845 6002218
WEB: WWW.OANDH.CO.UK
SALES@OH-MOBILITY.CO.UK

Face 2 Face befriending scheme now available on the web

Finding out that your child has a disability or going through the diagnosis process can be a difficult time for parents. For this reason, Scope supports the Face 2 Face befriending network to enable parents of disabled children to offer emotional support to other parents in the early days following their child's diagnosis. The befriending network has recently launched a website to reach out to even more parents. Amy Bick reports.

Following the success of the Face 2 Face scheme in providing a support network of befriending groups for parents of disabled children across the UK, Scope is now supporting the recently launched website which will extend the scheme further. www.face2facenetwork.org.uk, launched in June at the annual Face 2 Face conference, will be key in bridging the gap that can exist between parents, professionals and children. The website is aimed at parents of disabled children, supported by professionals working in social care, health and education.

Lizzie Jenkins, Face 2 Face project manager, is delighted the scheme is now available online: "We decided to set up the website to expand the Face 2 Face befriending scheme so we could reach out to more parents and make it much more accessible. Not only will the website be a valuable tool for parents in terms of support, we also hope it will allow more

people to get involved with Face 2 Face and benefit from the support network. Parents supported through this difficult time are empowered to move on and manage both their own and their children's lives more effectively in the longer term. It will also enable organisations, health, education and social care professionals to inform policy decisions that respond to and ultimately involve many more families."

What will the site offer?

The website was created in response to the growing demands from parents of disabled children and will allow parents to make links with schemes nationwide.

By making the information and support available online, parents and others are able to access the website regardless of where they live or when they choose, and are able to access experiences of other parents through the Face 2 Face



Lizzie Jenkins

network. By facilitating such interaction, the Face 2 Face network is able to grow and reach out to more and more people, developing organically in response to need and the people who use it.

The website describes how experienced parents can offer emotional support to new parents who find themselves in difficult or challenging situations. It is also a useful resource for professionals working to support parents in different ways.

Face 2 Face co-ordinator **Julie Willers** has been involved with the scheme for 15 months and has seen the difference the support can make to people's lives: "Parents who have already faced the difficulties of coming to terms with the fact that their child is disabled are able to offer other parents who are just beginning to face these challenges a very different kind of support from that which professionals offer. Although information and practical support from other agencies is very important, the opportunity to talk to another parent who has already experienced what they are going through can be an invaluable source of support."

"Being involved with Face 2 Face has allowed me to make a really positive impact on other people's lives. You go from feeling quite alone, to realising that there are lots of other people in the same situation as you, going through the same emotions and feelings as you. It's such a relief to be able to talk to others who have shared experiences. The website will make it much easier for more parents to get involved and for them to realise that there is support out there for them."

Lindsay Randall has been volunteering as a befriender since April and has found that, as well as providing support for many other parents, she's got a lot out of the process for herself: "Since volunteering as a befriender, my confidence has grown by being able to help other parents who are experiencing the same challenges that I went through. At the end of the day, I help parents to help themselves. The website is going to reach out to even more people. Just by reading the FAQs, you realise that the feelings you experience are the same that many other parents are going through and that there is a support network out there. Whatever disability your child may have, it's a relief to know that there are other parents going through the same thing and that you can make contact and find out more through the website. For me personally, I have found that volunteering as a befriender is so rewarding. I never realised how much information I had stored away in my head somewhere."



Contacts

For further information about Face 2 Face visit www.face2facenetwork.org.uk or email face2face@scope.org.uk

For more information about Scope and cerebral palsy visit www.scope.org.uk, contact the CP Helpline on 0808 800 3333 or email cphelpline@scope.org.uk

A project supported by Scope

Parents supporting Parents of Disabled Children

What were your feelings when you first discovered your child had a disability?

www.face2facenetwork.org.uk/



ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides. Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or email your problem to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



'I want to get online!'

I read in *DN Extra*, April, that up to 95 per cent of websites are inaccessible to many disabled people. Actually, I have a statistic of my own – some disabled people who cannot afford computers find them 100 per cent inaccessible.

I continue to raise funds to buy a lightweight laptop, and I'm looking to find a source from where I could rent or borrow one, but it is hard. It would mean so much to those of us who are housebound to have our own computer.

Evelyn, London

This question is particularly pertinent in light of the prime minister's pledge to get everyone who is interested to have access to the internet by 2005.

A good first contact for you will be AbilityNet, a charity which provides impartial advice about computers to disabled people. They have a factsheet detailing funding sources to help finance your purchase.

Alternatively, you might try the charity Computers for the Disabled UK, which builds and supplies cheap – and often free – computers to disabled people around the country. They have a number of different computer options, ranging from more low-tech and free models to fully fledged multimedia PCs for as little as £80. They also offer in-home training to new computer users.

Both charities run helplines (*see below*) and both are excellent starting points for making an informed decision when choosing your first computer.

Train travel a nightmare

I travel a lot and have been concerned to discover how fellow disabled people suffer on journeys.

I visit friends and cover at least 1,000 miles each month.

But although train travel used to be a pleasure, it's becoming an increased nightmare. On my last trip the only assistance I received was at Scunthorpe. There was none at Doncaster, Kings Cross or Weybridge, Surrey. I was forced to struggle with a heavy trolley at Waterloo and had to beg for help.

GNER has since apologised but it is action that we need – not explanations.

Cynthia, Scunthorpe

It is good to hear that you spend so much time travelling,

but at the same time, it's a pity that some journeys are marred by bad service.

I think you may find it helpful to write to Ann Frye at the Department for Transport's Mobility and Inclusion Unit.

Ann and her department are deeply concerned to improve travelling arrangements for disabled people. I am sure they would be able to suggest who else you should contact, and they would welcome your evidence of bad practice.

Sex is painful

I am 19 years old and when my boyfriend and I had sex for the first time he used a condom. We didn't go all the way because it was so painful. I didn't bleed but when we had

sex for the second time it was equally painful.

Because I missed a period I was scared, but thankfully a pregnancy test proved negative. I'm confused. What's gone wrong? I am too embarrassed to go to my doctor because we don't want my family to know. They wouldn't be very happy if they knew I was having sex, but I do need some sound advice.

Sally, by e-mail

It's understandable that you should want to keep the knowledge that you are having sex a secret. It is a very private matter. However, it is important that you seek help and advice if it is painful. This should be a happy and carefree time of your life and good sex can be wonderful while providing a bond with your boyfriend.

I suggest you contact Sexual Health Direct. They will be able to answer your questions in complete confidence. They will also be able to tell you where your nearest local clinic is. Again, you could consult in

complete confidence and your doctor would not be informed.

Your local service should also be listed in your phone book – either under Family Planning Service or Sexual Health Services.

Council failures

I am being driven round the bend by my local council who, after fitting a lift for wheelchairs in the grounds of the complex where I live, have still not supplied the shed for my scooter.

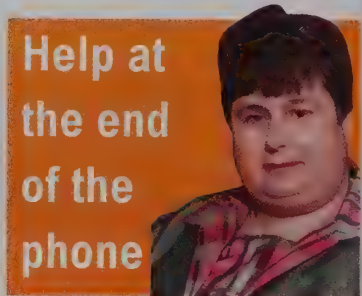
A second problem I have is that my social services department apparently thinks it's

alright for disabled people to live in dirty homes. I can drive an automatic car, but I cannot use an iron or a vacuum cleaner without great pain and danger to my person. What shall I do? Is the policy of central government to kill off those who are seen to be no longer of use?

Esme, by e-mail

I am sorry to hear you still have no shed for your scooter and that you are not receiving the help you need in your domestic arrangements.

I would suggest, in both cases, you contact your local councillor – you can get the name from your town hall – and your MP, preferably by attending one of their regular constituent surgeries. It is good to get to know people face to face – you never know when you will need their help again. If necessary, your local library can give you details.



Help at the end of the phone

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psychotherapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

AbilityNet, PO Box 94, Warwick CV34 5WS

National helpline: 0800 269545, web: www.abilitynet.org.uk

Computers for the Disabled UK,



Tel: 01268 284834, fax: 01268 479028, web: www.cftd.co.uk


Department for Transport, Mobility & Inclusive Unit, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR, tel: 020 7944 8300


Sexual Health Direct, 0845 310 1334

bp


Highlights from BP's Annual Report 2002





Our business is strong. Our company is soundly managed. Our people are determined to be the best in their field.



Our business is strong. Our company is soundly managed. Our people are determined to be the best in their field.

If you would like to learn more about BP, please telephone our Distribution Services on 0870 241 3269 for a free copy of our CD or audio cassette with highlights from our Annual Report 2002.

Everyday is an Exhibition Day at ALFRED BEKKER

Saturdays and Sunday by appointment

Mobility is the Key to Freedom. Being able to enjoy independence is no longer a luxury but a must. However, the answers are not always clear to: How do I get in and out of a car? How do I take a wheelchair/scooter with me? Can I still drive? Can I be a wheelchair passenger? Without the correct knowledge, expensive mistakes can be made. Some difficulties can be overcome with simple solutions like an easy handbrake, but other disabilities can be more complex and tailor made adaptations have to be designed and produced.

Since 1973, Alfred Bekker has been recognized as the leader in providing affordable solutions for senior citizens, the less able and wheelchair users. His friendly staff are specialists, who by research, development and many years of experience are perfectly placed to provide you with the right answers. Anybody is more than welcome to just pop in to see what is on offer, look at all the options on display or have a more in-depth assessment, which is free of charge. For those having to travel more than a few miles, we have superior wheelchair friendly motel facilities for an overnight stay, mini-break or holiday @ £45 per night per suite. Below are a few Alfred Bekker solutions, which are often copied but never equalled.

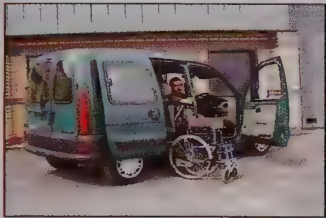
Self Drive Kangoo - with electric wheelchair loader



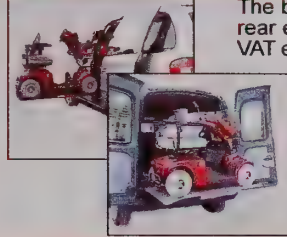
Self Drive Automatic Kangoo - complete with:

- Electric Wheelchair Loader
- Hand Controls
- Electric Heated Door Mirrors
- Electric Windows
- Choice of Tailgate or 180 degree opening Boot Doors
- Tinted Windows
- Power Assisted Steering
- ABS Brakes
- Remote Central Locking
- Driver and Front Passenger Airbags
- Insurance Approved Immobiliser
- Renault Anti Intruder Device
- 4x15W Single-CD RDS Radios with 4 Speakers
- Alloy Wheels
- Front Fog Lights
- Overhead Aviation Compartment

For only £11,956.64



Rear entry and side entry dual power lifts



The bargain basement dual power scooter or electric wheelchair lift for rear entry, the cost of which is often less than the money saved on the VAT element.

Can be quickly transferred to a replacement vehicle at little cost and without any drilling of holes.

Also available as a side entry system and again can be fitted at little cost and transferred to a replacement vehicle with ease.

Rear entry wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter

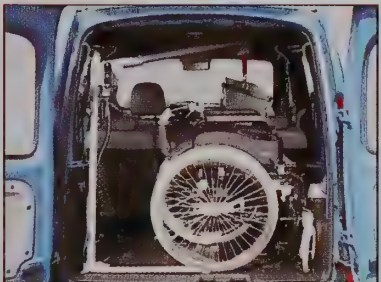


Our rear entry seated passenger or unoccupied scooter vehicles are competitively priced from:

Renault Kangoo Authentique From £12,621.28

Chrysler 2.4 LX Voyager From £22,385.10

Easy boot hoist



This very practical, adjustable and easy to install boot hoist has a lifting capacity of 200 lbs. It is priced at only £395 + £25 Courier

Drive from wheelchair



Starting prices for our drive from wheelchair vehicles are:
Ford Transit £25,486
Chrysler Grand Voyager £36,478

Handy-lift



This handy lift is for use on caravans and other similar vehicles where steps may pose a problem. The lift platform raises vertically and locks away for travelling.
£1,195 + £25 courier

Carry all



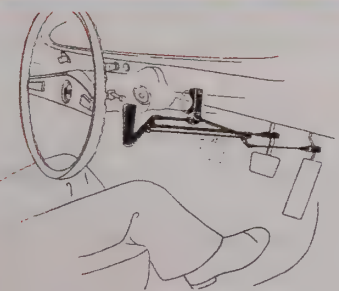
Choice of 3 models to carry your scooter or wheelchair. Simple drive on platform which can fold up when not in use, or fold side ways when loading the boot. Also useful for carrying bales of hay or straw. Prices start at £1,695 + £45 Courier.

Hand controls and steering knobs

Did you know that Alfred Bekker Designs are the most copied?

In 1976, Alfred introduced his now famous, easy to fit, easy to use, affordable hand controls.

To this day they are copied but never equalled.



Our current range of steering knobs are now all available with our NEW "Quick Release" mechanism. This allows for a simple no tools removal of the steering knob when not required.



If you want the best, forget the rest

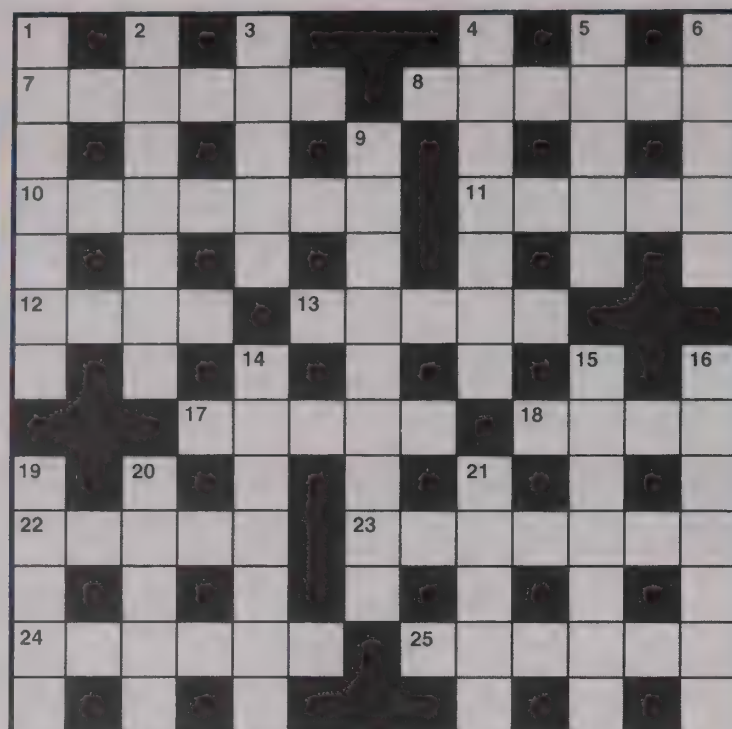
www.alfredbekker.com

ALFRED BEKKER

Kellythorpe, Drifffield, East Yorkshire
YO25 9DJ, England

Tel : (01377) 241700
Fax : (01377) 241767
Email : info@alfredbekker.com

(International : 44 1377 241700)
(International : 44 1377 241767)



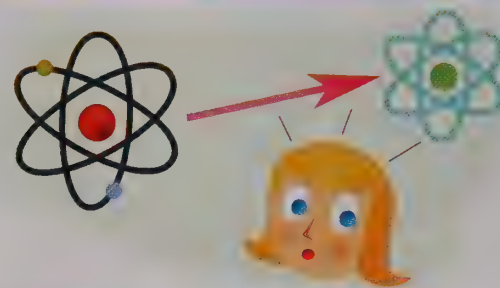
Across

7. Space set back from the line of a wall (6)
8. Boastful talk (3,3)
10. Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie and Ernie Els (9)
11. Smallest particles of chemical elements (5)
12. Britain's leading mental health charity (4)
13. Leaf-like part of a flower (5)
17. Rough outline of a scheme (5)
18. One pound, in other words (4)
22. Access All _____, the awards scheme for small firms that "go the extra mile" for disabled customers (5)
23. Aircraft pilot (7)
24. Britain's No.1 wheelchair tennis player (6)
25. And 4 Down. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association's July 15th event (6,3,1,3)

Down

1. Art of paper-folding (7)
2. Reykjavik is this country's capital city (7)
3. Remains of a body after cremation (5)
4. See 25 Across
5. Richards, the Disabled Sportsman of the Year in the npower Active Sports Awards (5)
6. Basil, the television fox (5)
9. Its parliament has voted to consider legalising medically-assisted suicide (4,2,3)
14. This group's hits include *Sometimes, Drama!* and *Always* (7)
15. Protective care...or imprisonment (7)
16. Speech to an audience (7)
19. Fluid or semi-fluid material under the earth's crust (5)
20. _____ And Sensibility, one of Jane Austen's most famous novels (5)
21. Boxing match (5)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN • ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM GILLESPIE
ANSWERS ON PAGE 43



What's on

Disabled Parents Network will hold road show events at Marriott hotel, Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey, 5 July, Hilton Bristol Hotel, Woodlands Lane, 20 September and Novotel Sheffield, Tudor Square, 11 October. The Roadshows will be made up of workshops looking at the work of the network, how to access and approach social services without your parenting skills feeling threatened, the benefits and pitfalls of direct payments, the impact of being a disabled parent and the benefits of forming local support groups. Contact Simone Baker, tel: 0118 986 9543, email: roadshows@disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk

Scope's Sustainability project will hold Moving On, a recruitment and training fair for disabled people, 9 July, Paragon Hotel, Olympia, London, 10am-4.30pm. The fair will give opportunities for disabled people living in London to meet employers and training providers to discuss paid and voluntary work, training and education, and gain greater

knowledge of the employment market, voluntary work possibilities and information on education and training. Communication support and personal enablers will be available on site. To book a place tel: 020 7619 7158, email: sustain.ability@scope.org.uk

Warrington Disability Information Services will hold a disability awareness day, 13 July, Walton Hall Gardens, Warrington. The day will be attended by Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, and will focus on information provision from over 280 exhibitors covering transport, mobility, benefits, employment, holidays, communication and more. There will also be marching bands, falconry displays, dog display teams and clowns for younger visitors. The organisers are also hoping to show all the fun live on their website. Tel: 01925 240852, website: www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk

Lancaster University will hold the inaugural conference of the Disability Studies

Association, 4-6 September. The conference will look at the work of people involved in disability studies throughout Europe and discuss issues including the development, achievements and future of disability studies, impairment and disability studies, identity, culture and disability and changing policy and practice. There will also be workshops, paper presentations and a poster exhibition. Contact Tracy Davies, telephone: 01524 594098, email: T.A.Davies@lancaster.ac.uk

Shape will hold a rough guide to communicating with deaf and hard of hearing people, the Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London, 8 September and 1 December, 10am-5pm. The course will include deaf awareness training, basic sign language related to working in an arts venue and other communication methods, and role-plays involving solving communication problems. £85 plus VAT. Contact John Wilson, email: john@shapearts.org.uk, fax: 020 7619 6162.



CANDID DAN

Batten gets ready to hit the North and walk down the aisle

London, my lifelong residence, is getting too frenetic for me. With domestic circumstances pulling my friends and me into 30-something settledness, the city I've worked and played in is telling me to go. And I'm more than happy to comply.

Why? Because, in a moment of madness, Beck has agreed to marry me. And with her in clean and tidy Chester and I in rubbish-strewn Hackney, deciding where to live was a no-brainer.

Even though I won't become a resident of Cheshire until late August, we've begun to make very tentative plans for our big day. First, and perhaps the hardest jobs of the lot, is the hunt for a suit that I actually like.

Having shied clear of them all of my adult life, several hours looking round shops produced only yawns from me and an exasperated fiancé. But fate intervened in the form of a striped effort that wouldn't have been out of place on a 1920's mafia don. Spats will not be worn though.

Then there's the venue, which will need to be pretty big to accommodate our hoards. My first idea of a tent in the back garden with people free to bring their own booze led to my being likened to Scrooge, but the second idea of Chester Town Hall got the thumbs up. Being shown round a wonderful large hall made all our dreams feel very real very quickly, and also led to some extremely wicked ideas for some "guest participation".

Among the hoards will (I hope) be the DN team. Having known them for so long, I hope they'll show their faces, especially as they claim they'll miss me when I'm gone. But, after so many years surrounded by journalists, do I trust that statement?

I guess I'll have to give them the benefit of the doubt, I won't know what I'll find in my tea otherwise.

10% DISCOUNT...



...IF BOOKED BY 31 JULY

Accessible travel and the *DN Travel Club* offer a vacation at the 4-star Hotel Meliá Benidorm, on the sunny Costa Blanca.

Located just 500 metres from the Levante beach, each of the hotel's elegantly decorated rooms contains a private bathroom, air-conditioning and heating, direct dial telephone, satellite TV, minibar, and a balcony facing the pool. Bathrooms are accessible with level-entry shower area and grab rails at the toilet.

There is an extensive range of daytime activities – including a fitness centre, water sports, horseback riding and sailing. In the evening, you can enjoy entertainment in the party room, Karaoke bar and mini club – for younger guests.

The high season prices from July to September are £395 for seven nights and £775 for 14 nights – offers too good to be missed.

To take up this holiday offer, you must be a member of the *DN Travel Club*. If you are not, just fill in the form below and send it to Accessible Travel and Leisure at the address below. If you are a member, telephone 01452 729 739 for more information.

DN TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Address

E-mail

Do you travel overseas? Yes ☐ No ☐

How often?

Favourite destination?

Have you ever been on a cruise? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you use a wheelchair? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to know about our Sensory Travel service for people with visual and hearing impairments? Yes ☐ No ☐

Send this form to Accessible Travel and Leisure, Avionics House, Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Glos., GL2 2SN England

Rules & Regulations

1. Applicants will be issued with a membership number which must be quoted at the time of booking. Otherwise no discounts or special offers will apply once a confirmation of booking has been issued.
2. Discounts and special offers will apply to the member and all other parties booking under the same lead name/party organiser, unless expressly indicated otherwise in the relevant *DN Travel Club* offer.
3. Membership of the *DN Travel Club* will be valid as long as the *DN Travel Club* remains in operation. In the event of cessation of the *DN Travel Club*, one month's notice will be given in *Disability Now*.
4. Any discounts offered will be deducted from the final balance.

Publications

Family Advice & Information Resource has published *Keep Yourself Healthy*. Aimed at people with learning disabilities, the two illustrated guides, for men and women, discuss the importance of staying clean and the implications of poor personal hygiene, how often you should wash, how to wash your hair and where and what to do if you need help to have a bath or a shower. 50p per copy. Tel: 0131 662 1962, email: fair@btconnect.com.

The MS Society has published a new advice booklet on managing tremor in multiple sclerosis. The booklet describes different types of tremor and how different approaches to rehabilitation, including physio and occupational therapy and

different aids to help minimise symptoms. There is also a section on surgery for the treatment of severe cases. Free. Write to MS Society Publications, PO Box 142, Bedford MK42 0FA.

The Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS) has published *International Travel and Parkinson's*. The information sheet gives advice on planning your journey, insurance, medication and practical tips from readers of the PDS magazine *The Parkinson*.

Available as pdf or text only files from the resources section of www.parkinsons.org.uk

Remploy has published *Everyone Welcome*. Aimed at conference organisers and people planning training events and meetings, it looks at ways to encourage disabled people to attend events, and suggests such things as checking access to buildings before booking them, checking if induction loop systems are available and issues raised by hidden disabilities. £2.50. Tel: 0845 8452211.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

DOWN: 1. Origami 2. Iceland 3. Ashes 4. For A Day 5. Jason 8. Brush 9. Isle of Man 14. Erasure 15. Custody 16. Address 19. Magma 20. Sense 21. Fight
ACROSS: 7. Recess 8. Hot Air 10. Golfers 11. Atoms 12. Mind 13. Petal 17. Draft 18. Quid 22. Areas 23. Aviator 24. Misty 25. Shades

DN LINAGE

Tel: 020 7619 7320, Fax: 020 7619 7331, Minicom: 020 7619 7332, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

• Personal

HI I AM David. I am 48, hard of hearing, enjoy travelling, all creatures great and small, domestic and wild, wish to meet girl over 18 for friendship and relationship. Box no: 236

44 YEAR OLD professional man with a mild choreoathetosis CP seeks person with same. Not looking for 'relationship' but simply interested in comparing experiences as to how we experience the world on a day-to-day level. Email: tonyholdenis@yahoo.co.uk Box no: 237

MAN, 54, BI-SEXUAL, slightly disabled, 5ft 6 ins, hair and beard now grey but kind, considerate and generous, seeks new friends. Box no: 238

I AM AN autistic female, 43, from East London. Good humoured but lonely, likes eating out and pop music. Wltn London man with autism/Aspergers/mild learning disability for friendship. Box no: 239

MY NAME IS Clare. I am 39 and have a mild learning disability, would like to meet single man 40-46 with perhaps similar disability, preferably in the North West. I am a caring person, my interests are going to the theatre, walking, eating out and shopping. Please get in touch. Box no: 240

LIKEABLE MATURE ARTS student, aged 42 from West Wales. Slight disability seeks creative fun-loving single female, 35-50, for true friendship. Box no: 241

GAY PERSON, DISABLED, aged 45, live with carer, wishes to correspond with others, 20-45. Young looking, totally mobile, very outgoing, many interests. Looking for friendship etc, would like to hear from North West Lancashire if possible – or anywhere. Box no: 242

MY NAME IS Michael. I am a Christian astrologer (not professional). I have a rare type of dyslexia. Interests are history, old time dancing, piano, newspaper cuttings and steam engines. I am a young looking 53 and wltn a lady, perhaps younger. I am 6 ft and slim. I live near Bishop's Stortford. Box no: 243

• Cars/vans/caravans

FORD MONDEO 1996, white, 2 litre GLX, 67k miles. Fitted with Milford lift, full MOT. towbar and wheelchair carrier. Fsh, only one owner. £3,800 ono. Tel: 01493 740083

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME, reluctant sale of brand new holiday home. 6 berth static caravan in prime location on an award winning haven holiday park in Tenby (kiln park). Fully wheelchair accessible, 2 bedrooms, one very large double bedroom (enough room for 2 double beds), another bedroom with 2 singles in, large lounge with double pull out bed + fully accessible kitchen, bathroom with wheel-in shower. Van has full double-glazing upvc frames and doors, gch. Fully furnished and fully equipped. Park is fully accessible, brand new restaurant, entertainment facilities, indoor and outdoor pools – a great venue for kids or just to get away, beach 5 mins away. New: £30,000+, will sell for £25,000 ono. For further info tel Richard: 07855 363564.

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 'authentique' wheelchair carrier 1.4, auto, 5 months' old, taxed and insured until Nov 03, low mileage (3620 miles), radio cassette player and air con. Electric winch and straps for pulling wheelchair up ramp into the carrier. Price sought £9,900 (cost £14,823 from Gowrings). Seller EA Jones, as our daughter recently died in France, sadly. Tel: 01525 280284.

FIAT FIORINO 1.7D, M reg, 53k miles, fully converted for wheelchair use, rear ramp access, winch, rear seat, excellent condition, 5 months' MOT, tax until November, £1,500 ono. Evenings and weekend viewing. Tel: 01895 235477 (Uxbridge).

CHAIRMAN FIAT FIORINO 1.7, diesel, S reg, 29k miles. MOT and tax for one year, takes 3 passengers and one wheelchair. Good condition, very dependable. £3,800 ono. Tel Neeraj: 07950 252 342 or Christine: 020 8444 7919.

£9,000 ONO R reg Renault RXE, auto, 33k miles. Fsh, F&J vacuum hand controls. 9 way infra red hand grip cost £4,000 included in price. Available mid June. Tel: 01246 415371. Mobile: 0776 0224573.

FORD COURIER 1.3 M reg, Constables conversion, auto, lowered floor with rear ramp access, electric winch. Carries driver, 3 passengers plus wheelchair passenger, power steering, taxed and MOT, service history, 27k miles. £3,950. Tel: 01924 262334.

RENAULT TRAFIC 1994, M reg, MOT August 03, seats 5 plus up to 3 wheelchairs. Tail lift, tracking, regularly serviced. To view at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. £1,500. Tel: 01582 620123.

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.4, auto, registered 03. Electric winch, safety straps, 1 year warranty, 1,106 miles, sale due to circumstance. Cost over £12,000 a couple of months ago, asking only £9,900. Tel: 01844 201292.

VOLVO 480ES AUTO, hand controls, H reg, 45k miles, 12 months MOT. £1,400 ono. Tel: 01202 733171.

CHAIRMAN FORD FIESTA Courier 1.3, 98R, auto, 33.5k miles, long MOT, blue, good condition. Gowrings conversion 2001 for £9,200 – lowered floor with rear ramp, front vision panel. £4,500 ono. Tel: 0161 643 2742 or email: Phil@psycho2.demon.co.uk

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 'Authentique', registered Jan 03, 800 miles on clock, 2 front and one rear passenger seat, 5 doors including sliding side doors and rear ramp, electric winch with securing bolts/seatbelt for wheelchair. Cost £13,400, £10,500 ono. Tel: 0191 388 9622.

MERCEDES VITO 2L, Y reg, 14k miles, full Interbility conversion incl 2 removable rear seats, suitable for 2/3 wheelchairs, 300 kg chairlift. Air con, tinted windows and many other extras incl removable coolbox, modern CD player, full carpeting. £22,000 new, asking £13,500 ovno. Tel: 01923 661312 or mobile: 0780 1480797.

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 16v, red, manual, 5 door hatch, PAS, electric windows and mirrors, non-slip ramp, one rear seat. Delivered new 11th April £12,700, bereavement forces sale. £11,000. Tel: 01443 208056 (Pontypridd).

Cont'd pg 44

FORD FIESTA COMBI 1750cc diesel, L reg with Brotherwood conversion incl rear ramp and inertia belts. Carries 4 plus wheelchair, glass wheelchair panel for wheelchair user. New MOT, fsh, 2 owners, only 24k miles. Metallic silver, in very good condition. £3,000 ono. Tel: 01892 654031.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, with Guido Simplex hand controls, mini traveller scooter together with hoist, bought in September 2001, 01 reg. Carries 5 without scooter or 3 with. 5 doors, still under warranty, less than 2k miles, air con, e/windows, power steering, central locking and airbags. Only 1 owner, sale due to circumstance. In immaculate condition, cost £15,000 with conversion, asking £11,900 ono including hoist and scooter. Tel 01460 73270.

CHAIRMAN CITROEN BERLINGO, T reg, 13k miles, green. Only 2 owners, pas, hoist and ramp, seat 4 plus wheelchair. In immaculate condition, cost £9,200 with conversion, £7,900 ono. Tel: 01304 619333.

CHAIRMAN FORD, GOWRINGS conversion, H reg, 69k miles, MOT August, tax September. 5 new tyres. £1,350. Tel: 07855 557747 (SE18).

CHAIRMAN VAUXHALL COMBI 1389 cc, P reg, very recent MOT and tax, carries 4 plus wheelchair, lowering suspension with rear ramp, safety straps. Full service history, in very good condition, 65k miles, £3,900 ono. Tel: 01435 883394.

FORD COURIER 1.3, Brotherwood conversion with rear ramp for wheelchair passenger. Extended roof with viewing panel, 4 seats and inertia belts. M reg, 17.5k miles, MOT expires September. £4,250 ono. Tel: 01892 722082.

TOYOTA HI ACE 2.4 diesel, reg 11/01, 8k miles only, driver plus 3 passengers plus large wheelchair, Versa conversion, spacious, wheelchair restraints, electric tail lift, power assisted steering, alarm and central locking. Cost £19,000 - sell £14,500 ono. Tel: 01922 400691.

CHAIRMAN VW CARAVELLE GLA 2459cc, N reg, only 1 owner, fsh and recent MOT. Metallic gold, sunroof, electric windows, power steering. 28k miles. Electric ramp at rear, adaptable seating with clamps and inertia belts, can carry 2/3 wheelchairs plus 3 others incl driver. In very good condition, cost £25,000 with conversion, asking £10,000 ono. Tel: 01254 830528.

PEUGEOT 806 GLX, Constables car conversion together with electric wheelchair lifting into passenger position. Can carry 5 including wheelchair, air con plus many extras. 22.5k miles, only 2 owners with fsh. X reg and under guarantee until February. Cost £29,000 new, £16,000 ono. Tel: 01925 602682.

Recruitment (on pages 44 to 50)

Capability Scotland is the country's leading disability organisation working for a just Scotland. We work with children, adults and families living with disability to support them in their everyday lives.

Relief Disability Equality Trainers

£19,751 pro rata, various posts across Scotland, variable hours

Our new Equality Unit has opportunities for people who have personal experience of disability to become disability equality trainers.

You will have good communication skills and an understanding of the issues relating to the social inclusion of disabled people. Experience of delivering disability equality training would be beneficial but not essential, as you will receive training in the use of the Equality Unit's materials.

If you would like further information, please contact Elspeth Ritchie, Equality Unit Co-ordinator, on 0131 337 9876 ext 253, alternatively you can email Elspeth (elspeth.ritchie@capability-scotland.org.uk).

For an application pack please contact: The Recruitment Administrator, Capability Scotland, 22 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6HP, Tel: 0131 313 3818 (24 hr answering machine), text phone 0131 346 2529. Alternative formats are available. Closing date: 1 August 2003.



Successful candidates will be required to apply for a Disclosure check from the Criminal Records Bureau. Further information can be obtained from www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

CAPABILITY SCOTLAND
TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY



REDCAR & CLEVELAND DISABILITY ACCESS GROUP

"aiming to improve the quality of life for disabled people"

SHOPMOBILITY-DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Salary up to £20,469 per annum - 37 hours per week

With responsibility to develop and manage this exciting new project in Redcar

Personal experience of disability would be an advantage

For further details and application pack, please contact:
R&C DAG 14 Regency Mansions, The Esplanade,
Redcar, TS10 1AU. Tel. 01642 492500

Closing date for applications 31st July 2003

COMMUNITY FUND
LOTTERY FUNDED



CARMOBILITY FRONT PASSENGER
180 degree swivel seat. Fits virtually any saloon car. £1,000 new, offer £300. Tel: 01223 515698. (Cambridge).

MERCEDES V220 CDI Ambiente, auto, registered 06/02. Low mileage (1,300 miles), Ricon Mirage underfloor lift, auto side door, remote control. Balder wheelchair clamp, privacy glass, curtains, two electric sunroofs, reversing camera, air con, cd player, leather upholstery plus other extras. Seats 3/4 including driver, costs with conversion £37,500, asking £27,000 ono. Tel: 01633 413329.

NISSAN VANETTE 2.3, diesel, blue with Versa wheelchair conversion incl winch and ramp, together with inertia belts. S reg, MOT expires May 04, fsh, only 2 owners, 21k miles, pas. Carries 4 plus wheelchair. £7,250. Tel: 01539 741066.

PEUGEOT 806 2 litre Hdi, Constables carchair conversion front passenger position. Includes electric wheelchair with dual controls, seats 6, 19.5k miles. First reg March 01, met silver, air con, 9 months warranty remaining. Good condition, £16,500 ono. Tel: 0113 2842412.

Cont'd pg 46

Come check us out!

Putting people first and tailoring services to their needs

Creating access to the Built Environment

Building an Inclusive Society -

Promoting Equal Opportunities for all people in employment

"We're looking for talented and enthusiastic people, especially in our hard to recruit areas, such as IT, Social Services, and new drivers."

Contact us at:

www.salford.gov.uk/jobs/

Tel: 0161 909 6503

Minicom: 0161 909 6527



Salford City of

Services



BIRKDALE PAEDIATRIC & ADULT NEURO CLINIC

Advice and treatment for babies and children.

Conditions treated are movement and learning difficulties, posture and balance, walking and balance, coordination and hand function.

Cerebral palsy, and children with neurological conditions. Farshideh Bondarenko DIP (PHYSIO) MCSP SRP

website: www.neuro-physio.co.uk

Tel: 020 8998 9403.

HOW TO REPLY

To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send it to DN, address on page 2.

PERSONAL ADS

For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £20 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

SEND US YOUR SMALLS...

...and make a big impression. Small ads in DN reach over 70,000 people for just £7 a line. All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form provided. Send it with a cheque for the total to Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

Classified linage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement (not Personal adverts). Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

Linage styles

EXAMPLE OF standard linage advert.
Cost: £7 per line. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF semi-display linage advert. Cost: £7 per line plus £10. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF box linage advert. Cost: £7 per line plus £20. Tick box below.

- ☐ Standard linage advert
☐ Semi-display linage advert
☐ Box linage advert

Choose an advert style from far right. Send this coupon with your name, address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to Disability Now to: 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. **Sorry no refunds.** DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

• Holidays (cont'd p48)

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE**

Due to cancellations – August and Sept availability.
Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent.
Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet,
warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for
you. Call or fax Ed Passant on 01233 731 097 or e-mail:
ed.passant@mail.com web: www.accessholidays.com

**LUXURY CHALET
IN POOLE, DORSET**

Beautiful views. Disabled friendly.
Ring Jill for details
Tel: 01525 379349 after 6pm.
Mobil: 07743 060406 (day)
Book early to avoid disappointment.

ROYAL DEESIDE SCOTLAND

4 superb self-catering cottages located on the
banks of the River Dee next to Balmoral.
Designed and equipped to the highest standard
with excellent facilities for disabled people,
their families and friends. Short breaks
available November – March. Please contact
CRATHIE OPPORTUNITY HOLIDAYS
Tel: 01339 742100 for more details or
email: info@crathieholidays.org.uk
www.crathieholidays.org.uk

ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL

Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled
person and their family. We have full disabled
facilities and are able to cater for organised
parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on
to a private garden with conservatory and have
breathtaking sea views. Private car park with
unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year.
Why not escape and relax at delightful
Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2.
Special 3-4 day breaks Nov-April. Discount for
group bookings. Tel: (01803) 313457.

BE NEXT TO THE SEA AT HEYSHAM

Magnificent view. miles of level promenade.
Wheelchair friendly, tracking and portable hoists.
Bakery beds, mobile chair for ensuite shower/toilet.
3 bedrooms/lounge/dining kitchen/study/tv/dvd.
Close to Lakeland, Bowland, RSPB reserves etc.
Free cycles and telescope use.
For more information and bookings, telephone
Allan or Jan on: 01274 588142.

CYPRUS – Paphos & Polis

Villas/cottages, some "disabled
friendly" for 2-10 persons.
Own pools. Phone Irene: 020
8440 6219 www.irisvillas.com

Brittany Cottage to let.
Adapted for wheelchair use. Good
access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6.
Details **C. Hodgson.**
Tel (01924) 499220.

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Lots of villas, farmhouses,
bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire
with hand controls, adapted
vans and plenty to see and do.
Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt
www.player.pt

Near Salisbury – newly converted stable block
self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin
bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs
1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen
& living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category
2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices
from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002,
e-mail: mail@old-stables.co.uk, www.old-stables.co.uk

COSTA DEL SOL

Wheelchairs, Electric scooters, bath &
WC seats, commodes
and more for hire
T: 0845 6442892 **MobilityAbroad**
www.mobilityabroad.co.uk

CAREWELL HOLIDAYS

Looking for a happy suitable holiday?
We specialize in finding suitable accommodation for
disabled persons of all abilities, age groups, and interests.
We can also arrange assistance from health care
professionals if required. For information on booking a
holiday in accessible self-catering cottages, hotels, or farm
house B&Bs please ring and speak to a holiday adviser.
Tel: 01437 563565, email: info@carewellholidays.co.uk
www.carewellholidays.co.uk
To find out about listing your accommodation
please contact us.

SOUTH OF FRANCE – SUN

New fully accessible house, 3 to
4 beds, English owner next door.
Near Carcassonne. By air – Stansted
direct or motorail to Narbonne. Tel:
0033 468788761 or 01953 452145.

• Recruitment (on pages 44 to 50)

RNIB has long been a top 10 not-for-profit organisation, but we're now ready to build on our strong foundations and take the next major step forward - to become more commercially aware, more focused and more successful in improving the lives of thousands of blind and partially sighted people.

Far more than a figurehead, the talented Chief Executive who joins us now will be able to initiate and implement significant change. By focusing on our business, our people and the way they work together you will create the realistic strategies that focus us in rewarding new directions and underpin renewed corporate growth.

To succeed the outgoing Chief Executive, Professor Ian Bruce, you'll need the right combination of strategic vision and a practical approach. You'll be collaborative with a hands-on approach. You'll be credible with key stakeholders at the highest levels including board colleagues, politicians and major donors, yet able to relate to the people for whom we campaign and provide services. You'll be an enlightened people manager able to motivate and develop senior colleagues. You'll be commercially aware. You'll be all of these.

but Chiefly Executive

Whether you join from a not-for-profit organisation, a local authority, the NHS or the commercial sector you'll bring an awareness of social policy and the government's social agenda. Well-developed management skills are essential, as is the commitment to professional development in a learning organisation.

The role is based in London and attracts a starting salary of **£80,000 - £100,000**. Applications from blind or partially sighted candidates will be particularly welcomed.

If you have the talent, the experience and the ambition for such a challenging, stimulating and career-making opportunity, please telephone 020 7388 2370 (24 hour answerphone) quoting reference 2779 or write to the Personnel Department, RNIB, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE or email recruitment@rnib.org.uk Closing date 15 July 2003.

RNIB is committed to equal opportunities. Registered charity number 226227 **www.rnib.org.uk**



Royal National Institute of the Blind **RNIB**

**Norfolk, Nar Valley
Holiday Cottages**

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with
wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly
en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location,
central for beaches and tourist attractions.
Indoor heated swimming pool. Also B&B.
**More details and prices, contact:
Rosemary on 01760 338797.**

Willow Cottage – The Black Isle, 5 mins drive Inverness.
Beautifully equipped, Tourist Board 3 stars with
Disability Award 2.
1 double, 1 twin, both ensuite. Situated on a working croft amid
lovely scenery with wildlife park close by. Moray Firth dolphins,
kites, buzzards, deer etc, and our Nessie! Inverness offers good
food, cinema, theatre etc.
Brochure/details, tel: 01463 731455, website:
www.highlanddisabledcottageholidays.co.uk

**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL
“Holiday Care Award Winners”**

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users
and their families. Rural setting with superb
views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves
and daily meal service.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.
**R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,
St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall
PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin
(01208) 850277 or 850617**

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Disabled travellers, don't miss
this spacious luxury adapted
bungalow. Overlooking Golf
Course. 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
(Mangar bathlift). Cable TV.
2 Telephones. FREE Country Club
Membership. 10 minutes airport.
20 minutes Disney World. For
availability/booking contact
paraplegic owner:- Sue Fisher
Tel/Fax: **0161 792 3029.**
Email: rita.sue.fisher@ntlworld.com
www.http://homepage.ntlworld.
com/susan.fisher33/

• **For sale**

COTSWOLD COTS
Build Cots and Beds for Adults and
Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any
Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens.
Extra Large Stairgates.
Fitted Padded Play Areas.

High Quality Fair prices
Information Phone 01993 842885

**Accessible Vehicle
Register**

We specialise in locating used
vehicles to suit the specific needs
of our customers. If you are
looking for an accessible vehicle
or have one to dispose of, contact
Adam Price. We also supply and
install all forms of access equipment.
01202 814112
adam.price@lineone.net

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 02 Toyota 2.5TD, cruiser & tail lift, 3,000 miles	£14,750
2001 51 Sharan Sport TDi, Automotive Group	£18,995
2001 X Peugeot Expert Hdi, Constables, 17,000 miles, Air Con	£14,250
2001 Y Master, 1 owner, 19,000 miles, lift	£14,995
2000 W VW Caddy Invatravel, low mileage	£9,995
2000 W Dispatch Chairman, 1 owner, 6,000 miles	£12,250
1999 V Escort Chairman diesel, 44,000 miles, PAS, 1 owner	£9,500
1998 S VW High Top, Side Lift, details to follow	
1998 R Mercedes Vito, Ramp, 10,000 miles	£10,500
1998 R Fiat Fiorino TD, Universal Mobility, 34,000 miles	£5,495
1997 R Sharan Automotive 2.0GL, 1 owner, 38,000 miles	£12,500
1997 P Scudo Chairman, 22,000 miles, vision panel	£8,995
1996 P Brotherwood Courier Diesel, P.A.S., 2 owners	£5,995
1994 L Brotherwood Serena 1.6, 54,000 miles, P.A.S. Winch	£5,995
1993 L Vanette Versa 1.5, Tail lift, 50,000 miles	£3,495
1992 J Fiesta Courier 1.3, 17,000 miles	£3,750
1992 J Brotherwood Prairie MK2, High roof	£5,495
1990 H Escort Chairman 1.4, 30,000 miles	£4,500
Kangoo & Berlingo models	Choice of 9
Traffic & Vanette Cargo models	Choice of 10

A selection of 50 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery
anywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

**CLARKE MOBILITY
SNODLAND, KENT**

01634 243596
www.gfclarke.com


**“We care
for your
care”**

**Electric
Reclining
Chairs**

**Mobility
Scooters**

Stairs Lifts

**Invalid
Accessories**

Batteries

**Electric
Wheelchairs**


www.graveshammobility.co.uk

**GRAVESHAM
MOBILITY**

**38-40 Perry Street
North Fleet
Kent DA11 8RE
Tel: 01474 564897**

**SALES
SERVICE
HIRE**

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants
New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs,
3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.
All models wanted and for sale.
Ring Free anytime
0800 074 6834
All major credit cards accepted

DISCLAIMER

**DN is not responsible for
claims made in the adverts
it prints. Readers are
advised to check claims with
advertisers before relying
on them.**

• Recruitment (on pages 44 to 50)



National Centre for Independent Living

Supporting independent living • Promoting direct payments

We need some more disabled people to help our growing work.

Be part of creating real opportunities in disabled people's lives, in a lively team and supportive work atmosphere.

Head of Information (job share) with knowledge of direct payments; experience in delivering information; knowledge of website and database management, including e-based information.

17.5 hours per week • Salary scale £28,092 - £32,682 pro rata

Training Manager with experience of designing and delivering training; knowledge of local government; knowledge of direct payments
35 hours per week • Salary scale £28,092 - £32,682

Research/Development Officer, fixed term appointment (15 months) with research skills; knowledge of independent living and personal assistance
35 hours per week • Salary £26,205

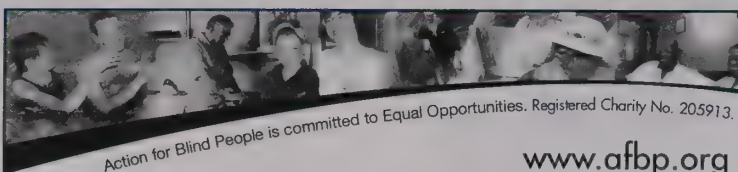
Finance Officer – part time with experience of managing accounts; knowledge of computer based accounting
17.5 hours per week • Salary scale £22,032 - £24,129, pro rata

NCIL is committed to equal opportunities. All our full time posts are open to job share.

All jobs are based at 250 Kennington Lane SE11 5RD.

For application pack please telephone Barry Clarke on 020 7587 1663 or email barry@ncil.org.uk

Closing date for applications 18 July • Interviews week beginning 4 August



Action for Blind People is a dynamic national charity that provides direct support to over 25,000 blind and partially sighted people across the UK every year. With over 400 staff, more than 300,000 supporters and an annual income of £22 million, the organisation manages employment development teams, factories, housing services, hotels, leisure opportunities and a national information and advice service.

User Involvement Co-ordinator

From £19,259 per annum plus benefits

Our aim is to provide the services that visually impaired people tell us they want, not what we think they may need.

As the organisation continues to grow, we are firmly committed to increasing the involvement of service users in the ways in which we plan and deliver our services and, over time, in the management and governance of our organisation. Our aim is to ensure that we provide the services that visually impaired people tell us they really want and need, in the ways that they find most effective and accessible.

We are looking for someone with personal experience of visual impairment who can champion this process and inspire and motivate all at Action for Blind People to meet the changing demands of our service users. You will need to be enthusiastic, flexible and committed to our core values.

Regular travel will be required and some overnight stays. Location is negotiable and the post could be home based.

For further details and an application pack, please contact The Human Resources Team, Action for Blind People, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Tel: 020 7635 4844. Email: humanresources@afbp.org or apply online through our website.

Please clarify if you need our application pack in an alternative format.

Closing date: 25th July 2003.

Interview dates: 11th and 13th August 2003.



BLUE BATTERY CAR and charger Sienna, 7 months' old. Very good condition, £3,800 ono. Tel: 01732 841277 or County Lifestyle Mobility: 01622 863300.

ELAP ROTATING CAR seat for Renault Scenic left hand passenger seat. Cost £605 12 months ago, £495 ono. Tel: 01452 621182.

CHAIRMAN VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6, auto, 1991, 24k miles, MOT until December. Lowering suspension, wheelchair ramp and securing clamps. Vgc, £2,950. Tel: 01444 246790.

• Wheelchair/scooter

DMA 3 WHEEL electric scooter with inbuilt charger. 6 months' guarantee, never been used. Portable, fits in car boot, max speed 4 mph. With full instructions, £950 ono. Tel: 07986 782355.

DISAWARE WHEELCHAIR SCOOTER Transporter. Cost £1,299, accept £650 ono. Fits on back of car. Tel: 01722 333599.

PERMOBIL SUPER 90, for indoor and outdoor use. Battery and charger, max speed 7 mph. Indicators, front and rear lights, with rear pocket for storage. Recaro seat, can tilt back to reclining positions, electrically adjustable legrests, left hand control which can be converted to right. Cost £10,000, asking £3,000 ono. Tel: 01670 359960.

4 WHEEL SHOPRIDER Mobility scooter, £499. Tel: 01908 605112.

MANGAR FERRYMAN POWERCHAIR with kerb climber, high or low back, height adjustable seat, blue cover and charger. Hardly used, new condition. Cost over £2,400, will accept £1,200. Tel: 01635 202605.

SHOPRIDER DE LUXE 4 wheel scooter, bought Sept 02, hardly used. £900. Tel: 01656 663709.

FREEDOM RIDER, 4 wheeled scooter with storage cape and basket. Together with charger, back and rear lights, indicators, anti-tip, 3 metre extension lead. Never been used, full instruction manual, cost £2,595, £950 for quick sell. Tel: 01252 876902.

RASCAL 888N ELECTRIC red scooter, captain's seat, basket, stick holder, max speed 4 mph, charger. Used only 12 times, as new. Cost £1,650, £850 ono. Tel: 01689 832326.

INVACARE CRUISER 3E powerdrive electric wheelchair with charger, fully charged battery and instruction booklet. £400 ono. Tel: 01428 724263.

TRAVEL-LITE SCOOTER fits any car boot, hardly used, £950 ono. Buyer collects. Tel: 01689 822299 (Orpington, Kent).

SUNRISE QUICKIE F55, vgc, very little use. Cost £4,900, only £2,500 ono. Tel: 01206 211444.

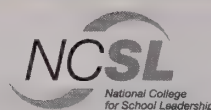
BALDER, FULLY POWERED multi-function. New independence, suits severe disabled. Stands, raises and tilts. Indoor and outdoor, joystick control, front wheel drive. Used one year, 1 year remaining on warranty. Cost new, £10,500, selling £5,000. Tel: 07850 775620.

CHURCHILL MINI SCOOTER, light and folds up easily. With charger, up to 25 miles per full charge. 3 wheeler with basket and brochure. Still under warranty, cost £1,400 less than 2 months' ago, £800 ono. Tel: 020 8968 3409.

Cont'd pg 49

• Public appointments

department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence



National College for School Leadership (NCSL) - Governing Council Members

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills invites applications for 3 vacant posts on the Governing Council of the National College for School Leadership (NCSL). This is an exciting opportunity to work with a high profile public sector organisation that is at the forefront of delivering the Government's objectives for building a world-class teaching profession.

The Organisation

The NCSL was set up in September 2000 to provide a single national focus for school leadership training and development and research. It is the Government's main delivery agent for equipping current and aspiring school leaders with the support, challenge and inspiration they need to achieve transformation in their schools.

Its aim is to provide a driving force for excellence in school leadership through training and development opportunities; and through disseminating good practice.

It also plays a key role in shaping educational thinking and policy nationally and internationally; and works in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders including the General Teaching Council, the Teacher Training Agency, Local Education Authorities and headteacher associations.

The NCSL is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body based in Nottingham with an annual turnover in excess of £80 million and over 160 staff. Its Governing Council has 18 members.

The Position

- Advising and supporting the College on its strategic development and on the delivery of the objectives set for it by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.
- Ensuring that the College's programmes meet the needs of its customers and reflect current best practice in leadership development.
- Acting as a champion for the College and its work.
- Advising, supporting and supervising the Chief Executive in the discharge of her professional and managerial duties and responsibilities.

Membership is part-time (requiring a commitment of approximately 2 days per month) and unpaid although travel and other expenses are met by the College. There are on average 4-5 Council meetings a year and they currently take place alternately in Nottingham and London.

The Person

On this occasion we are looking for applications from individuals with:

- a strong track record of leadership in schools (for example as a serving or aspiring Head, a subject leader, or a member of the senior management team); or in the private sector;
- a good understanding of and commitment to the College's aims for transforming teaching and learning schools;
- good knowledge and experience of leadership development strategies and delivery;
- good knowledge and experience of managing change.

Applications from women, ethnic minorities and disabled people are particularly welcome.

For further information and an application form, please send a postcard or e-mail bearing your name, address and reference NCSL to: Ginny Randall, Department for Education and Skills, Level 1E, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

E-mail address: pba.team@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday 7 July 2003.

The Department for Education and Skills is committed to making appointments on merit by fair and open process, taking account of equal opportunities

DEADLINES: Disability Now August 2003 published 26 July classified deadlines: Booking: 11 July. Copy: 15 July.

• Recruitment (on pages 44 to 50)

WEST OF ENGLAND COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Require a Disabled Person for the post

CO-ORDINATOR

£24,634 - £27,420 • 35 hours per week
30 days annual leave • pension scheme

WECODP is a well-established community development campaigning organisation wholly managed and staffed by Disabled people working to challenge discrimination against Disabled people wherever it arises and to support Disabled people to represent themselves.

The Co-ordinator is the senior manager post in the organisation. They are responsible for the day to day management of the organisation, staff supervision and management, fundraising and overseeing all financial issues. They will also require a thorough understanding of and commitment to Disability Equality policies and practice.

We are committed toward Equal Opportunities and we particularly welcome applications from Disabled people who experience simultaneous oppression.

To request an application pack phone Jim on **0117 942 0721** at The Yard, 6 Somerville Road, Bishopston, BRISTOL BS7 9AA or E-mail us at: jim.wecodp@btinternet.com

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on Wednesday 16th July 2003

Shortlisting will take place during the week 21st July and interviews week commencing July 28th.

Working Together For Our Right To Equality



Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood International (DPPI), is a national service providing information about disability and parenting issues to disabled parents, professional workers and others who support them.

INFORMATION OFFICER

Part-time 17.5 hours per week.

Salary: £25,536 pro rata (NJC Scale Pt 31).

To join small team at the National Centre for Disabled Parents in servicing enquiries, research, collation and production of information resources.

Must have an awareness of issues facing disabled parents and commitment to providing a high quality service.

Experience of information provision, excellent communication skills, computer competency using Access database and website maintenance required.

CLOSING DATE: 1st July 2003 at noon. INTERVIEWS: 10th JULY

We welcome applications from disabled people.

For an application pack apply in writing to, The Chair, DPPI, National Centre for Disabled Parents, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH or via Email: office@dppi.org.uk

NO TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES PLEASE

Registered Charity No. 1070303

GREATER WARWICKSHIRE SPORT

Following a successful Active Communities Development Fund application, Greater Warwickshire Sport and the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) are seeking to appoint an experienced research professional to assess the existing and required sporting provisions of disabled people in Greater Warwickshire.

You will be employed by Coventry City Council on behalf of the Sports Partnership for a fixed 12 month period.

DISABILITY SPORTS RESEARCH OFFICER

£21,282 - £22,689 p.a. Ref: LS/11/03

Working with a range of voluntary sector disability organisations, disability sports clubs and mainstream sports providers, you must be able to complete a detailed research study identifying existing opportunities, current barriers to participation and produce a strategy and implementation plan to address the findings of the research. You will also establish a strategic group to represent the voice of disability sport across Greater Warwickshire.

Application forms and further details from Cultural Development Personnel on: Tel: 024 7683 2025.
Minicom: 024 7683 2600.

Closing date: 25th July 2003.

Disabled People who fully meet the person specification will be guaranteed an interview

Large print application forms available on request.



click clock click clock click clock click clock
(don't miss out on that perfect job!)

Hertfordshire County Council is positive about employing people with disabilities.

We have also launched the first council interactive website. Apply online for a diverse range of jobs. Visit our website

www.hertsdirect.org/hertsjobs
or contact 0845 601 4834 for further information.



SUSTAINABILITY

Making London's workplaces accessible and inclusive for all

Recruitment Fair for Disabled People

Learn how to sell yourself to potential employers – practice interview techniques – get important information on employment, education and training

9th July 2003

Paragon Hotel, Olympia

10.00 to 13.00 and 13.30 to 16.30

Personal assistants and sign language interpreters available

Employers - for information on exhibiting, contact SUSTAINABILITY on **0207 619 7158** or sustain.ability@scope.org.uk

SCOPE

Learning+Skills Council



ADKC, a local organisation of disabled people, are seeking to recruit disabled people for the following positions

Leisure & Community Officer-Ref. LCO/001

Salary: Scale 5 – Pt 22-25 (£19,791 - £21,429 p.a. pro rata) • 21 hrs per week (some evening & weekend)
To organise a diverse programme of group activities. To liaise with other service providers to increase leisure opportunities for disabled people.

Some experience of organising group activities/events is essential.

Advice & Information Officer-Ref. AIO/001

Salary: Scale SO1/2 (£24,129 - £26,205 p.a.) • 35 hours per week
Provide a quality advice and information service throughout the Borough to disabled people, their families and service providers. Produce information in Factsheets and by production of a newsletter.
Deputise for the Chief Executive.

Some experience of advice and information work is essential.

Positions funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Office is fully accessible. For an application pack please call 020 8960 8863 or Email admin@adkc.org.uk Please quote the post reference number and where you saw the advert.
Application packs available in all formats.

Closing Date: 16th July 2003.

DIRECTOR, MOTABILITY

An outstanding leader for a unique organisation

c. £95,000 plus benefits
Harlow

Motability is the national charity helping disabled people gain increased mobility and independence by enabling them to lease or buy a car or powered wheelchair using their Government funded allowances. In the 25 years since the Motability Scheme began, more than 1½ million vehicles have been provided, improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of disabled people and their families.

As well as having responsibility for the oversight, strategic direction and development of the Scheme, Motability is a major grant-making charity with the consequent need to raise funds. It also has a well-qualified technical team researching and advising on mobility solutions. Whilst external business partners deliver the services, Motability has overall accountability for the integrity, quality of service and brand identity of the Scheme. It is responsible for policy and planning, and liaises closely with Government, customers and other stakeholders.

The present Director, Noel Muddiman, retires at the end of the year. It is a high profile, influential position which calls for an experienced

chief executive whose abilities combine business skills, creativity and imagination, relationship management, change leadership and pragmatic problem-solving.

The role is wide ranging, ensuring the Scheme operates in the best interests of disabled people whilst also meeting the expectations of a diverse group of stakeholders. This means leading a senior executive team who work closely with the business partners to continually improve the services provided, ensure that KPIs are achieved and developments implemented effectively. Continuing to raise Motability's profile will help increase the number of people benefiting from the Scheme and underpin new fundraising initiatives.

Your track record will show success in all relevant areas. Strong commercial skills, sound judgement, strategic thinking and financial acumen will be matched by first class communication, leadership and influencing skills proven at the highest levels. It will be important for you to demonstrate a commitment to meeting the needs of disabled people.



Please send your full CV by 18 July (including current salary details) to our recruitment advisor Andrew Burke, Principal Consultant, by email to: 1590DN@aegis-er.com or by post to him at Aegis Executive Resourcing, Winchester House, New Farm Road, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9QH.

MOTABILITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.



Leisure & Environmental Services Department

Planning – Building Control

ACCESS OFFICER

£28,935 – £31,347 plus essential car user allowance

A vacancy has arisen within our Planning Department for an Access Officer. You will be responsible for developing and managing an access strategy to ensure access issues are promoted across the Council and with outside agencies.

Your experience will include

- Working knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- You will have carried out training on the Discrimination Act and Disability Awareness.
- Knowledge of part M of the Building Regulations, planning procedures and built environment.
- Experience of working with community groups.

You will have excellent financial skills including the ability to provide cost estimates and budget control.

You will also have excellent communication, influencing and negotiation skills.

For further details and an application form, please see the LBB&D

WEB
www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk

TELEPHONE
020 8227 3075

EMAIL
lepersonnel@barking-dagenham.gov.uk

CLOSING DATE
for the receipt of completed applications 4th July 2003.

Please quote reference LES177.



Promoting equal opportunities and celebrating diversity.

The London Borough of
Barking & Dagenham

LGC Management Team of the Year 2002.

Tower Hamlets is a distinctive, unique London Borough that is home to a diverse, vibrant, multicultural community. As part of an exciting regeneration programme, we aim to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in the area. It's also an ideal opportunity to further your career.

Social Services Senior Practitioner

£30,267- £32,682 Incl. LW

You will be employed by the Physical Disabilities Team of London Borough of Tower Hamlets. This Team undertakes Borough-wide Assessments, Care Plans, Monitoring and Reviews for over 700 users of the service. The Team consists of a Team Manager, Senior Practitioner, 6.5 w.t.e. Care Managers and Team Admin Workers.

The Senior Practitioner will have experience at a senior level, and will have knowledge of working with people with physical disabilities in a multi-cultural community. They will be under the guidance of the Team Manager for Physical Disabilities and you will have a wide range of responsibilities for the operational side of the service as delegated by the Team Manager. This will also include supervisory duties.

The Team have recently been re-located, together with the Sensory Disability Team, Advocacy Services and short-term Emergency, Assessment, and Residential Respite Facilities, at the Disability Resource Centre for Adults, near Mile End Station, which also houses the Disabilities Information Training Opportunities Service (D.I.T.O.) which has Internet access.

Ref: 9707JUN006

For further details regarding the post, please contact: Kathy Taylor, Team Manager on 020 7364 5853.

Closing date: 11th July 2003.

For an application pack, please call 020 7364 4488 (24 Hour Recruitment Line). A special Minicom service is available for those with a hearing or speech impairment on 020 7364 4489. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

We shall ensure fairness and equal opportunities throughout our workforce and in service delivery. We welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or age.

A Workforce to Reflect the Community, Committed to Positive Action.

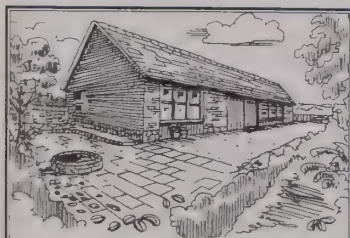
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk



2003-2004
Community Champion



• Holidays (cont'd)



Take a break at Jay's Barn

Jay's Barn (sleeps 4) has been specifically designed & rebuilt for disabled people. Beautifully situated in its own grounds/garden. Easy access to Alton Towers, Peak District, The Potteries, or enjoy a visit to one of the level routes in the locality. Open all year. £230 off peak £300 peak per week. Also short-term lets. 1 double bedroom, single wheelchair users welcome. Payphone, no smoking, no pets (guide dogs accepted), linen and towels provided.

ETB 3* Level 1 National Access Scheme.

Ring Christine Babb on 01889 507444.

Jay's Barn, Bradley in the Moors, near Alton.

Staffordshire Moorlands ST10 4DF.

email: jaysbarn@lineone.net www.jaysbarn.co.uk



Organisation of Disabled People seek Housing Advocate

To help explore housing options and represent issues
£21,684

P/t Self Advocacy Facilitator for people with little verbal communication also needed

For more details contact
**Brent Advocacy Concerns, 154 Harlesden Rd,
London, NW10 3RX**
Tel: 020 8459 1493 Email: richard@brentadvocacy.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 1st August 2003

Senior Manager Direct Payment Support Service Hammersmith & Fulham Action on Disability

18 hours • P01 Scale point 33 £26,895.00 pro rata



Hafad is one of London's leading organisations of disabled people. User controlled it has campaigned for the rights of local disabled people since 1979 and the development of user controlled personal assistance schemes.

You will have a commitment to the Social Model of disability, knowledge of current Direct Payment trends and independent Living issues. You will have a track record of managing competing demands, turning policy into practical service delivery working jointly with members and local partners.

You will manage a small staff team, be keen to support Hafad's development both internally and externally as part of the Senior Management team.

Hafad can offer you a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme and a real opportunity to advance equality for disabled people in Hammersmith & Fulham.

For an accessible application pack contact Hafad on 020 7471 8510 Fax 020 7610 9786 Textphone 020 7610 9696 e-mail info@hafad.org.uk or by post at Greswell Centre, Greswell Street, Fulham, London SW6 6PX.

Application closing date Wednesday July 16th.

• Recruitment (on pages 44 to 50)

Transport for London

Docklands Light Railway



Infrastructure Engineering Manager

East London c£45 - £50k per annum

The Docklands Light Railway Network as part of Transport for London has a distinctive role to play in the future planning and provision of London's transport. DLR Ltd provides a highly accessible, customer focused railway network for thousands of passengers each day within the Docklands, East and South East London and is key to the support and continuing regeneration in this part of London. DLR Ltd has established itself as an innovative and commercial organisation driven by delivering a quality service through a private sector franchise.

As the result of an internal transfer, we are now seeking an Infrastructure Engineering Manager to assist the Head of Engineering, Projects and Safety with the management of infrastructure projects and the long term safeguarding and development of the railway's physical assets. A significant part of the work will be in conjunction with the DLR's franchise operator who has responsibility for day-to-day operations and maintenance until 2006. In addition, you will be responsible for providing technical advice to DLR's Executive/Board.

To succeed, you will be excited by change, innovation, and results and should be a Chartered Engineer, holding a civil engineering degree with at least 5 years' experience gained within the railway industry. You will have a sound knowledge and understanding of rail infrastructure management practices and techniques, and the development of railway infrastructure and systems. Proven project management, report writing, problem solving and negotiation skills are essential, preferably gained within a commercial environment. You must have a clear understanding of railway strategic safety principles and practices including risk assessment techniques and management of third parties on or adjacent to operational railway infrastructure.

To apply, please telephone our recruitment hotline for an application pack on 020 7941 7439. Please quote reference DB038 when applying. Please note that you will need to complete an application form to be considered for this vacancy as CVs cannot be accepted.

Closing date: Friday 18th July 2003.

DLR Ltd values the diversity which exists in our city and aspires to this being reflected in our workforce.

MAYOR OF LONDON



AQUASOOTHE TRAVEL LITE scooter, easily dismantled to fit in car boot. With charger, max speed 3.7 mph, range of 4.5 miles with standard battery, 8 miles with jumbo battery. With user's manual, in immaculate condition, cost £1,995, asking £950 ono. Tel: 01403 753719.

JAZZY ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, joystick controls, suitable for indoor/outdoor use. £790 ono. Tel: 01892 722082.

POWERTEC F40 ELECTRIC wheelchair, green, 18" seat with kerb climber, indicators and lights. Right hand joystick, charger included. Together with full instructions and purchase details. £300. Tel: 01254 830528.

ETAC MANUAL WHEELCHAIR, brand new with quick release wheels. Lightweight, fold-up, easy fit in car boot. Originally cost £1,500, £1,200. Tel: 020 8764 9805.

RGK HI-LITE WHEELCHAIR, hand built with polished frame finish, folding backrest, screw-in push handles, spider wheels. Hardly used with tool kit and instruction manual, £1,300 ono. Tel: 01633 413329.

SUNGIFT 500 ELECTRIC scooter with charger, new batteries, max speed 8 mph. Basket, lights and indicators. In very good condition, cost £5,000, asking £2,500 ono. Tel: 01387 252473.

RUTLAND POWER WHEELCHAIR with curb climber and power charger. Sale due to bereavement, cost £2,200 12 months ago. For quick sale offers over £500. Buyer collects. Tel: 07929 119895.

NIPPY 3 WHEEL blue and white scooter with wheelchair ramp. Brand new, only 17 miles on clock, petrol driven, lights, indicators, ideal for shopping. Together with full brochure, genuine reason for sale, garaged since new. Cost £2,000, asking only £490. Tel: 020 8395 1930.

• Holiday swap

OWNER OF FULLY adapted bungalow, West Wales, seeks holiday exchange suitable for C3/4 (overhead hoist, roll-in shower), Tel: 01970 820314. Email: rogerhaggar@hotmail.com

• Accommodation

BOW, LONDON. UNIQUE studio/cottage £160,000 ono or £600 pcm. Ground level with own parking 5 yards from front door, no steps higher than 4 inches. Delightful convenient setting, details www.BowStudio.co.uk or tel: 0117 904 1043.

3 BED DETACHED bungalow adapted for wheelchair use in Birmingham. Wide doorways, low work surfaces in huge new kitchen/diner. All rooms spacious, recently redecorated, new floors (non-slip), accessible bathroom with double jacuzzi bath. Gardens to front and rear plus garage. Close to shops and public transport. Offers around £220,000. Tel: 0793 0337863 (day) or 0121 247 4424 (evening).

• Household/family

MOBILE COMMUNE WITH detachable arms and 2 brakes, used twice, £75. Tri-walker and bag, cable brake, pu tyres, as new £85. Thamesmead overbed table, £25. Toilet aid, new, £30. Blox Chair raisers, set/4 £10. Tel: 01428 724263 (Christchurch).

CHAILLEY NIGHT-LYER for prone or supine lying, removable washable covers - 117 cms long - £75. Parallel walking bars, adjustable height - 264 cms long x 60 cms wide - no longer needed - £40. Carers mobility stool on wheels - 36 cms x 44 cms x 33 cms high. All in excellent condition. Tel: 020 8346 3408.

Cont'd pg 50

Support for disabled people

If you have a disability or health condition that affects your chances of finding or keeping a job, ask to see a Disability Employment Adviser, based in your local Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus office.

They can provide:

- help with finding and keeping a job
- information on training
- support with benefit entitlement and programmes like New Deal; and
- advice on employing people with disabilities.



JobCentre



Part of the Department for Work and Pensions

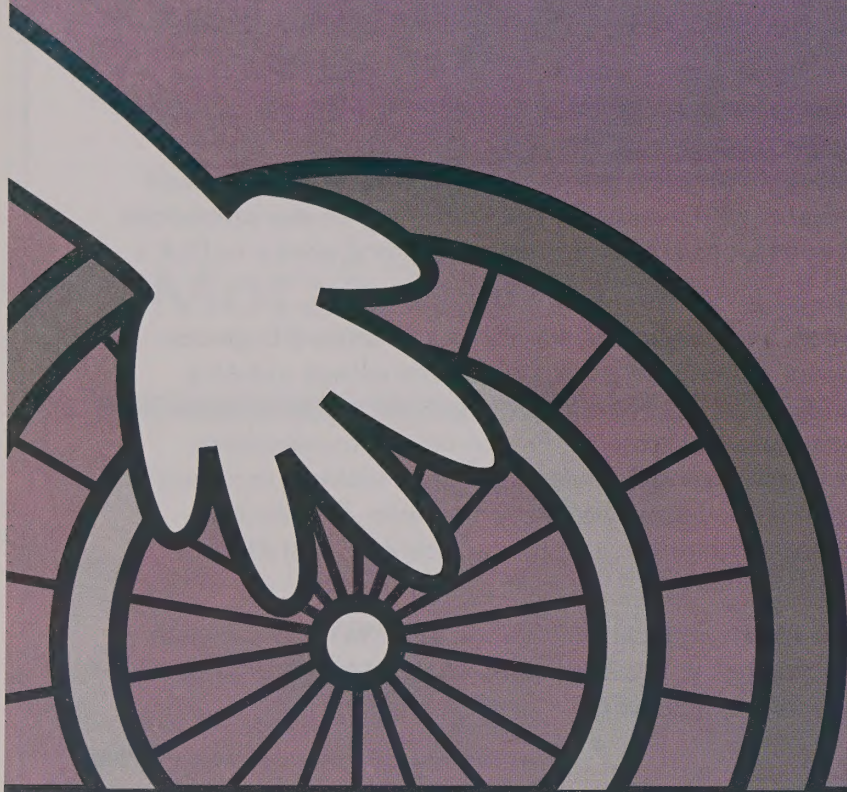
Contact your local Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus office for further information.

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk



DEADLINES: DN Extra July 2003 published 11 July classified deadlines: Booking: 2 July. Copy: 2 July.

WE NEED A HAND



Yours

We're actively recruiting from all sections of the disabled community. The black community. The asian community. The gay community. The white community. The whole community

A diverse workforce will make us better able to meet the care needs of the equally diverse patient population which we serve. It's dedication like this that makes us one of the country's leading hospital Trusts.

For more information call
020 7955 8853

or email diversity@gstt.sthames.nhs.uk

Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital **NHS**
NHS Trust

Remploy CHIEF EXECUTIVE

With 12,000 people currently in employment and operations in more than 80 locations, Remploy is the largest provider of employment opportunities for disabled people in the UK. Part funded by the Government, for 50 years Remploy has been expanding opportunities for disabled people and providing businesses and local communities with a range of quality products and services. We are looking to recruit an accomplished executive to take over from the present Chief Executive as soon as practicable. This is a Secretary of State for Work & Pensions Appointment.

The role for the Chief Executive encompasses:

- Growing Remploy's business base to deliver more commercially resourced income to support increased employment opportunities growth.
- Promoting Remploy's corporate identity and achievements as a provider of employment opportunities for disabled people to all stakeholders (e.g. Government, Trades Unions) in order to provide more employment opportunities for more disabled people.
- Managing company performance against clear accountabilities to drive organisational success, for the ultimate benefit of disabled people nationwide.
- Leading the senior team in driving the delivery of Remploy's Business Plan.

Candidates must have a strong track record of commercial success running a sizable business, leadership skills, and experience managing change in a diverse, multi-site organisation. The individual appointed will be expected to represent Remploy at the highest levels within the private sector, public sector, and to the national media. The position is based in Coventry.

If you feel that you have the qualities to undertake this challenge and make an impact in a high profile business then please email Remploy@skillcapital.com or write to Philip Roe enclosing your c.v., current compensation details and notice periods if relevant.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 18th July**. Remploy is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Philip Roe, Skillcapital Ltd., 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7HJ.



skillcapital

DN disabilitynow

Editorial/ Administrative Assistant

£16,177 - £17,774 (incl. ILW)

The UK's leading disability newspaper, now fortnightly, needs an enthusiastic, flexible, well-organised person to run the office and help with subbing, proofing and writing. You need Word, Excel, admin experience and a thorough knowledge of office routines.

Disabled applicants welcome. For an application form contact Dan Batten, Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, tel: 020 7619 7323, fax: 020 7619 7331, email: dan.batten@scope.org.uk Closing date 4 July 2003.

Registered Charity No: 208231

• Personal



ALONE?

Any adult, any age, anywhere
Able-bodied or Disabled
Single, bereaved, divorced,
separated, partnered or married –
choose your own ideal relationship.

MUTUAL ESSENTIAL LINKS

1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL
Tel/Fax: Int' 00+44+ or UK (0)1606 49093

CONDITIONS – Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However, it may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact Patrick Durham-Matthews (tel: 020 7619 7320), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham (see contact details above).

DN cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.

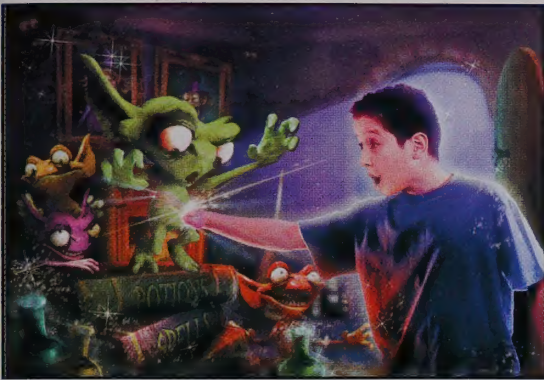
• Combined

CARONY CARSEAT WHEELCHAIR, 2 years' old and used to visit doctor or hospital. Fits 406 Estate. Good condition. Also Wessex ceiling hoist. Transport from bedroom – lounge – bathroom. Reasonable offers accepted. Tel: 01902 730067.

• Mobility Aids

ROLLATOR 4 WHEEL walking aid with basket and seat. £70. Tel: 01892 722082.

PARK LIFE



There's no end to the magic and fun at Chessington World of Adventures this year, so why not grab the chance to be a part of it? The whole family is guaranteed a memorable day out.

The new attraction is Hocus Pocus Hall, the gothic home of a wacky wizard, full of ghostly goings on – from whispering books and bubbling potions to talking portraits and magic spells. Beware the slithering snake pit, watch out for the smelly chair and stinky drawer and make sure you keep an eye out for goblins!

Back again is the 'fang-tastic' Vampire roller-coaster which will swoop you over the tree tops and through the sky. Join in the interactive fun and become a Tomb Blaster on a mission to defeat the enemy armed only with wit and a laser gun. Experience Beanoland with Dennis the Menace and Gnasher on hand to keep the mischief and pranks coming fast and furious. The littlest adventurers can take a trip through Toytown in their own Crazy Car, or for those wanting a more laid-back experience, Animal Land will transport you into the jungle to see gorillas, tigers, leopards, lions and birds.

DN has 5 family tickets, worth up to £65 each, to give away. All you need to do is tick the Chessington box (above right). For those not lucky enough to get a free visit, you can book on the advanced booking and information line 0870 444 77 77 or visit www.chessington.com



TEST YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT

Are you physically disabled and crave a bit of adventure? XDM (Xtreme Disabled Motor Sport) has been set up to give disabled people the opportunity to experience off-road motor sports. The XDM centre is in the hills of North Wales and, thanks to the sponsors of XDM, Cyclone Mobility and Fitness and Barratts Solicitors, **DN can offer one reader and a friend the chance to win a Woodstar and quad bike experience for two days. This fantastic prize is worth £225.**

Just tick the XDM box in the entry form (above right) and return to our Freepost address. For further information about XDM call 0151 334 8815 or visit www.xdm.org.uk



BARRATTS

BARRATT, GOFF & TOMLINSON
SOLICITORS

SPECIALISTS IN ACCIDENT CLAIMS
FREEPHONE 0800 435 365



CYCLONE

LEARN TO DRIVE



steering grip enabling the driver to activate the horn, lights, windscreen wipers and indicators.

Depending on an individual student's needs, BSM Mobility instructors can also call on a quick release handbrake mechanism, indicator extensions, a series of steering aids, a booster cushion and a panoramic mirror.

DN can offer one lucky reader the chance to win five free driving lessons with their locally based BSM Mobility instructor and, for the runners up, BSM will make available a special "Buy one lesson, get one lesson free" offer. (Terms and conditions apply). Tick the BSM box above right.

Full details on 08457 276276 or from the BSM website at www.bsm.co.uk

BSM

to enter

Tick the competition circle below, add your details, and send FOR FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to: elizabeth.cowley@scope.org.uk

☐ Chessington

☐ XDM

☐ BSM



terms & conditions

• closing date for entrants: 18.07.03 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to *DN* staff or associates • Winners may be announced in *DN* • In association with Chessington World of Adventures, Cyclone Mobility & Fitness & Barratts Solicitors and BSM. We may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your details to be included ☐

DN next month



David Stephenson's *Early Mist – Bass Lake*, an entry in Freedom in Focus 2003.

All the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 28 July.

● ALL ABOUT BANKING

Dan Batten makes sure you won't be short changed

● WINNING WORK

Freedom in Focus competition results

● MY JOB

Fancy being a postie?

● OUT AND ABOUT

The story of the fab four and much, much more

NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR.

Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.



The campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

DN

disabilitynow

£1.80 July 2003

Float your boat

Cars and more at
Mobility Roadshow

Crisis at Rempoy

Unions meet minister


Beyond a joke

Pressure mounts on TV networks



The New Look Citroen Berlingo fully converted
now available on Motability 5yr Contract Hire



 **Motability**

For info on our full range:

0845 345 0127 (local rate)

sales@lewisreedgroup.co.uk

www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk



Citroen Berlingo
from £12,470.00



Renault Kangoo
from £12,470.00



Citroen Dispatch
from £14,750.00



Volkswagen T4
from £13,850.00



Toyota Hiace
from £15,450.00



Renault Traffic
from £14,950.00



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Errors & omissions excepted. All prices exclude VAT & Road Fund Licence